

BL agrees to seek further aid

Sir Michael Edwards and the BL board decided to recommend continuing financial backing from the Government after the collapse of resistance to its 38 per cent pay offer. Normal production resumed at all plants with nearly full turnouts. The new corporate plan will now be submitted to the Government.

Soviet impatience over submarine

The Soviet Union is displaying growing impatience with Sweden over its refusal to release the stranded submarine. Moscow temporarily reinforced its fleet outside Sweden's territorial waters and has increased diplomatic pressure. The Supreme Commander of the Swedish armed forces has submitted a report on the affair.

Prominent UDA man shot dead

A prominent member of the Ulster Defence Association, the main Protestant paramilitary force in Northern Ireland, was shot dead in front of his daughter, aged eight last night. He was named as Mr. Arthur Bates, aged 35.

£14m operating loss by NEB

The National Enterprise Board, with the prime role of stimulating high technology industries, recorded an operating loss of £14.2m in the first six months of this year. All but one of the board's subsidiaries showed increased losses.

Baby case jury to look at intent

The judge in the case of Dr. Leonard Arthur, the paediatrician charged with attempting to murder a three-year-old boy, told the jury at Leicester Crown Court that they must distinguish between the consultant's intent and his motives.

England team fly to India today

The England cricket team, led by their new captain, Keith Fletcher, fly out from London today for a four-month tour to India and Sri Lanka that includes one Test match.

Battle likely for Land's End

Land's End has been put on the open market at a price of about £175,000. The fight for its future ownership is likely to be between the National Trust and developers, possibly from overseas.

Seal slaughter shock in Ireland

The bloody killing of 118 grey seal pups and 18 nursing mothers off the north-west coast of Ireland has shocked conservationists. There are thought to be fewer than 2,000 grey seals living in Irish seas.

Left takes over Bermondsey

A comprehensive political takeover of Bermondsey, London, will be completed on Sunday when a successor to Mr. Robert Mellish, the former government chief whip, is chosen from among seven left-wingers as the local Labour Party's prospective candidate at the next general election.

Warning nuclear shot is in Nato armoury, Haig says

Washington, Nov 4.—Mr. Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, said today that Nato contingency plans include firing a nuclear missile as a last resort, a demonstration of the government's willingness to use nuclear weapons against pressing a conventional attack on Western Europe.

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Church, party and Solidarity meet to settle fate of Poland

From Dossa Trevisan, Warsaw, Nov 4. Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, and Mr. Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, walked together this evening to an unprecedented discussion in Warsaw with General Jaruzelski, the Communist Party leader, Prime Minister and Defence Minister.

Helicopter raid beats factory pickets

From R. W. Shakespeare, Manchester. Eight men wearing goggles and helmets were brought in by helicopters yesterday to remove submarine equipment from a dispute-bound factory while 100 policemen kept pickets at bay.

Foot declares war over rates, unions and oil

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

In a Commons speech full of optimism, which neither her supporters nor her opponents could fully explain, the Prime Minister declared yesterday that the Government had created the conditions in which "out of recession could come renewed confidence."

In the coming year, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher said, there would be a realization that there was a new economic stephens that the big changes so long needed and so often skirted had now been made, and that we would secure the kind of success our neighbours had achieved but that had eluded us since the war.

She was speaking at the start of six days of debate on the Government's parliamentary programme which members of both Houses had earlier gathered in the House of Lords to hear outlined by the Prime Minister in the Speech from the Throne.

On paper, the programme promises out of the highest work loads placed upon Parliament for many years past. But the three Bills that catch the eye, all of them well signalled in past weeks, are all certain to be bitterly fought by the Labour Party.

The first to appear will be the Bill to restrain local authorities from raising rates above a level prescribed by central government without holding a local referendum.

The second is the Bill being prepared by Mr. Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, to put further limits on trade union immunities and, as Mrs. Thatcher described it yesterday, "to provide better redress for those harmed by the abuse of trade union powers, particularly of the closed shop."

The third important Bill will give the Government the right to take over the private sector of most of the oil production business of the British National Oil Corporation, and all of British Gas's offshore oil business.

Mr. Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said that the three Bills, he said, were "a last resort, a demonstration of the government's willingness to use nuclear weapons against pressing a conventional attack on Western Europe."

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The Princess of Wales makes her parliamentary debut with the Prince of Wales: "She was shimmering from head to toe". Hugh Noyes, page 4

Church, party and Solidarity meet to settle fate of Poland

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Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, and Mr. Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, walked together this evening to an unprecedented discussion in Warsaw with General Jaruzelski, the Communist Party leader, Prime Minister and Defence Minister.

This meeting of the three principal powers of Poland—church, union and Communist Party—was arranged last night to try to find a way out of the country's prolonged crisis before winter sets in.

The talks lasted over two hours. When Mr. Walesa emerged he said they had gone well, and that further contacts would be pursued in working groups. A brief official statement said that consultations would continue and that this initial meeting had been useful.

It seems that there were no hard and fast agreements, but none had been expected. However, the basic agreement to pursue consultations is a major breakthrough after months of stalemate. Solidarity has, in fact, made a benevolent response to General Jaruzelski's recent proposals on government by consultation and consent.

Before he left for today's meeting, Mr. Walesa said he had

Helicopter raid beats factory pickets

From R. W. Shakespeare, Manchester

Eight men wearing goggles and helmets were brought in by helicopters yesterday to remove submarine equipment from a dispute-bound factory while 100 policemen kept pickets at bay.

The policemen, eight of them on horseback, circled the Manchester factory as two helicopters were brought in by management for what furious trade unionists described as "an Entebbe-style commando raid."

The eight masked men wearing military-style clothes were brought into the grounds of the Laurence Scott and Electro Motors plant in Louisa Street, Openshaw. They took out six motors for hunter-killer submarines.

The equipment was built for the navy's nuclear submarine fleet and is part of a £2.5m defence contract left unfinished when the plant was occupied by workers last April. The picket of 150 men looked on helplessly as the small task force went to work.

Angry trade unionists accused the police of conniving with the management and said that a national campaign would be mounted to black the company's products.

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New redundancy deal proposed for dons

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Proposals for a national redundancy scheme for university academic staff, involving lump sum payments of more than £50,000 in addition to pension rights, have been submitted by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals to the University Grants Committee (UGC).

In a letter to the UGC to be officially released on Friday, the vice-chancellors' committee says that many universities face such an acute financial crisis that they will have to declare staff redundant in a matter of months.

It was therefore urgent that individual institutions should know the terms under which the UGC would be prepared to provide additional funds for the payment of compensation or early retirement benefits. The universities themselves could not afford to pay.

The proposals were not intended to pre-empt the right of any individual university to determine the redundancy compensation paid to its staff, but represented guidelines on what the vice-chancellors' committee considered fair treatment for academic staff.

The committee realized that some academics would not consider the compensation, given under the scheme, adequate redress for the loss of their contractual right of security of employment until retirement. They would still be free to pursue claims through the courts, it said.

The scheme proposed is based on the compensation arrangements for so-called mobile civil servants over the age of 40 who are made redundant, and is divided into three parts based on different age groups.

For those aged below 50, it is proposed that, in addition to the deferred pension and lump sum payable at the normal retirement age of 65, they should receive an immediate lump sum based on their length of service, equivalent to nearly two months' pay for each year of service.

Those aged between 50 and 55 are already eligible for the universities' premature retirement schemes. Under the new proposals they would receive further lump sum related to age, length of service, and salary.

For those aged 55 and over, the scheme provides roughly what is on offer by most universities' premature retirement schemes. The advantage of the new scheme is that it would stipulate that all academics over the age of 55 get pensions with the maximum enhancement permitted of 10 years.

Lump sum payments over £25,000 are liable to income tax and the vice-chancellors say they want to discuss with the UGC ways to legitimately minimise the disadvantages to the recipient, for example by the purchase of additional pension entitlement as an alternative to a part of the lump sum.

The UGC has estimated that universities will have to lose 5,000 academic jobs over the next three years.

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BL agrees to seek more aid as new cars roll out

By Edward Townsend and Clifford Webb

Sir Michael Edwards and the board of BL agreed yesterday to recommend continuing financial support for the loss-making group 24 hours after resistance from workers to its 3.8 per cent pay offer crumbled.

The company said that it was delighted with employees' response to the return to work appeals which it put out on local radio and television stations on Tuesday night. Normal production restarted at all plants with nearly full turnouts.

BL's seven-man board, meeting at the company's London headquarters, retracted, apparently without conditions, its letters delivered last month to the transport and engineering unions and to Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, threatening to liquidate those parts of the car business affected by strike action.

The latest BL corporate plan, completed before the pay dispute arose, will now be submitted to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry. It envisages that the company will reach break-even point by 1983-84 and does not seek additional public funding beyond the £900m approved by the Cabinet in January and intended to cover much of BL's capital spending and rationalisation plans up to the end of next year.

The Department of Industry said yesterday there were no plans for a meeting between Mr Jenkin and Sir Michael to discuss the plan, which covers BL's proposals for the five years to 1987, but it is clear that the document will be subjected to usual detailed scrutiny by officials.

In the past the department's experts have taken several weeks to study BL's plans

before making recommendations to ministers. A Commons statement by Mr Jenkin on the new corporate plan is not expected for at least six weeks.

The latest tranche of state aid for BL brings the total amount of public money earmarked for the group since 1975 to more than £2,500m. About £450m of the £900m has been drawn, leaving a balance of £450m for use up to the end of next year.

The company's 1981 corporate plan forecasts the need for government funds totalling £620m in 1981-82, followed by £370m in 1982-83 and the possibility of a further £150m in 1983-84. It was hoped that the latter could be generated internally but the BL board is more likely to seek the topping-up tranche from the Government.

After the successful introduction of the Metro a year ago, and the Japanese-designed Triumph Acclaim, BL's hopes for a return to profitability and a boost to market share are pinned on the launching early in 1983 of the L400 range of medium cars to be built at the Cowley plant.

The L400 project will account for about £200m of the remaining £450m of public money, the rest being spent on the Ambassador (the Princess replacement), a new Rover, Metro derivatives, Land-Rover, the T45 truck range and Unipart, together with continuing work on streamlining the business.

BL also hopes to raise funds with the sale of such factories as the Speke plant at Liverpool and Rover assembly facilities at Solihull, and from the disposal of fringe operations, possibly including the Coventry Climax work.

The new corporate plan is certain to include revised estimates for capital expenditure, particularly towards the end of the five-year period.

The last plan put total capital spending for 1981-85 at £1,650m, of which £930m was for BL Cars, £200m for Land-Rover, and £520m for the Leyland truck and bus group. Spending for this year was put at £335m.

The optimism implicit in BL's statement yesterday was shared by a Birmingham-based firm of estate agents, Shipways. It was so relieved that a closure which could have had dire consequences for the Midlands housing market had been averted that it immediately offered a 50 per cent reduction in house sale fees to BL workers, meaning a saving of £225 on a £30,000 house.

Night shift workers at three key BL plants were so eager to resume that they jumped their union's official starting gun. In the flurry of telephone calls after the 6 am back-to-work vote on Tuesday, BL urged union leaders to recall their members for the night shift at the component feeder plants at Longbridge.

Mr Grenville Hawley, national automotive officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union and leader of the joint union negotiating committee, said the recall was impossible in the few hours remaining.

BL managers went ahead, however, and appealed for night shift workers to report for the Metro shift at Longbridge, the big Swindon plant which supplies body pressings, and the Birmingham transmission factory.

About half the 3,500-strong night shift turned out at Longbridge.

A comprehensive takeover of all the main levers of political power in Birmingham, London, will be completed on Sunday when a left-wing successor to Mr Robert Mellish, the former government chief whip and a stalwart of the right, is chosen as the local Labour party's prospective candidate for the next general election.

It is the climax of a two-year struggle for control in which the right-wing old guard unhappily, but readily, confessed that it has been outmanoeuvred by the organizational tactics of the left.

Five men and two women will gather nervously in the back room of a local youth club on Sunday afternoon. They will face the ordeal of a 10-minute speech, followed by questions, before a critical 90-member selection conference. After an exhaustive ballot one of them will almost certainly, barring an extraordinary electoral catastrophe for Labour, be on the way to Westminster.

But the victor cannot expect the blessing of Mr Mellish, who has represented the area for 35 years.

When he announced his decision not to stand at the next election, he protested at the leftward drift of the party locally and nationally, and the Labour's shift to the right against the background of a further cry of foul play from the right, which has made an

apparently futile attempt to fight back.

Since the left gained a majority on the local party's general management committee about 18 months ago, it has replaced Sir Reg Goodwin, the area's GLC member since 1964 and former GLC leader, with a left-winger, Mr George Nicholson.

Removed from his list of candidates for the Southwark council elections next year several moderates including Mr John O'Grady, the council leader for the past 14 years. Several appeals against exclusions will be heard by the Greater London Labour Party's finance and general purposes committee on November 16.

Drawn up a clearly left-wing shortlist of seven to replace Mr Mellish.

As in other constituencies, Mr Frank Chapple's election to the council has been a triumph for the left. He has a strong guaranteed body of support behind him, informed opinion locally suggests that he might be denied victory by the remaining right-wingers on the GLC, who identify him with the left-wing radical credentials. One of the favourites is Mr Peter Tatchell, aged 29, secretary of the Birmingham party.

Although he has a strong guaranteed body of support behind him, informed opinion locally suggests that he might be denied victory by the remaining right-wingers on the GLC, who identify him with the left-wing radical credentials. One of the favourites is Mr Peter Tatchell, aged 29, secretary of the Birmingham party.

He was also backed by Rotherhithe, one of the con-

stituencies of eight wards, a GMWU branch and Dalwich Fabian Society, but was rejected by the party's executive committee when it settled the list on October 19. (It was confirmed by the GLC last week.)

Mr Nicholas Murray, assistant secretary of the party, denies there was any attempt to reduce political choice. Those shortlisted were thought suitable to represent the people of Birmingham in Parliament. The role of Mr Speller in the attempted EETPU coup was not forgotten.

Instead, Sunday's conference will have before it seven candidates who will proudly proclaim their left-wing radical credentials. One of the favourites is Mr Peter Tatchell, aged 29, secretary of the Birmingham party.

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wood Benn's campaign for Labour's deputy leadership, and author of a guide to constituency parties on the selection of MPs.

The other runners are Mr Sandy McPeters, a member of the suspended central London branch of the electricians' union, Mr Anthony Mooney, an Islington councillor, Mrs Edna Mathieson, a member of the Inner London Education Authority, and Ms Clare Short, director of Youthaid.

In moving to the left, they say, Birmingham is returning to its halcyon pre-war days, when it had the most pioneering local authorities in the country and a radical, still revered MP, Mr Alfred Salter.

The right sees it differently. Those such as Mr O'Grady, aged 61, a party member for 36 years and Southwark councillor for 23, who now have to plead their case to stay on before an appeals committee, are finding it hard to take.

Mr O'Grady said: "The left have taken over in the classic style. They have gone along to ward branch meetings, upset the traditional Labour workers with their intolerance and temperate language, and because our people could not stand the way these meetings were being conducted the membership was whittled down to a small number and the left could take over."

Science report

New clues to cancer link with viruses

By the Staff of "Nature"

Sections of a virus known to cause cancer in monkeys have been isolated from human brain tumours, a German research group has announced. The results emerge just at the moment when a flurry of papers from the United States and Japan is confirming the role of another virus in a form of human leukaemia; so it seems that after long years of doubt, the theory that some forms of human cancer are caused by viruses is being vindicated.

The German work concerns the green monkey virus called SV40, which causes cancer in animals from monkeys to hamsters. It has been well studied in the laboratory, so biologists now have a number of precise molecular tools with which to recognize it. Research at the German Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg, put those to work on cells isolated from 35 human brain tumours and detected pieces of the SV40 genome in eight of the tumours. However, there are some peculiarities which indicate that if the virus is at work in the tumours it must be operating in an unusual way.

In animals, SV40 operates by integrating its DNA—its genetic material—into the DNA of the cell it attacks; so when the cell multiplies, the DNA of the virus is multiplied. But in the German work the SV40 DNA is found to be in pieces outside the cell's nucleus (where the cell keeps its DNA). Moreover the SV40 DNA is fairly thinly spread, at the rate of about one complete unit every 10 or 20 cells, and in some respects it appears to be defective.

However, that may operate in the virus's favour, the scientists speculate: it may manage to escape the body's immune defence system by failing to produce protein antigens which the immune system could attack.

Source: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, (Nature Times News Service, 1981).

Talks on ending union deadlock

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

BL executives will meet representatives of the 11 manual unions with members in its car plants in the next two days to try to break the year-old deadlock over the composition of the unions' official negotiating team.

The company hopes that with both sides now acknowledging how close they came to shattering Britain's only surviving big motor manufacturer, there will be a more determined effort to solve one of the issues that led to the latest confrontation.

The BL Cars joint negotiating committee was set up four years ago to introduce corporate bargaining in place of the plant level negotiations, which laid the company open to wage leap-frogging demands.

The committee collapsed in the wake of a strike between the wave of rising tensions that followed the 6.8 per cent settlement in November, 1980. Union leaders admitted that it was unwieldy and dominated by a hard core of militant shop stewards.

The company said the committee had deteriorated into an undisciplined talking shop which made responsible decision-making impossible.

Throughout last winter Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, BL Cars director of employee relations, urged the unions to come to the conference table to draw up plans for a new committee. Finally, in March, he submitted controversial company proposals which brought the unions hurrying to the long-delayed meeting.

A big stumbling block to progress was immediately apparent. The Transport and General Workers' Union demanded half the seats and the chairman's casting vote. It based that on its 55 per cent share of the manual labour force.

Six more meetings followed, with Mr Terence Duffy's Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers just as vehemently refusing to accept

domination by the more militant transport union.

With time running out for the start of the 1981-82 wage negotiations, due for completion by November 1, BL insisted that wage talks must start in August. The outcome was a still unwieldy ad hoc negotiating body containing one national official from each of the 11 unions, but still dominated by shop stewards.

Both sides were unhappy with its composition but reluctantly agreed that it was the best they could achieve in such a short time.

Some moderate union leaders taking part now admit privately that the compressed time scale in which the negotiations took place was a factor in the decision to call a strike in response to the company's first offer.

BL is proposing that a new and much smaller 23-man committee should include one full-time officer from each of the 11 manual unions, and 12 more union representatives, who

Early start by Tories at Crosby

From John Charters Liverpool

The Crosby by-election campaign is expected to begin in earnest next Monday but there was much activity in the area yesterday.

Mr John Butcher, aged 39, the newly selected Conservative prospective candidate, held a first press conference and the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance had painters and joiners in action setting up a headquarters alongside a solicitor's office in the Great Crosby area of the straggling constituency.

Mrs Shirley Williams, the alliance candidate, is almost certain to appear in the area today.

The Conservatives announced that they intended to hold daily press conferences from Monday onwards at 8.45 am. They warned other parties that they would have to adjust their arrangements to suit the timing if they expected to attract visits from a large international press corps.

There were no signs of activity yesterday at the Crosby Labour headquarters, in a Victorian terrace house at the southern end of the constituency, which stretches from the top end of Formby down to Seaford Docks. Labour's prospective candidate, Mr John Backhouse, aged 28, a teacher of Science at a local school, was selected last Sunday night.

Mr Butcher, selected on Tuesday night, declared his stance in the election more fully yesterday. He does not like such labels as "wet" or "dry" but said he was a dedicated supporter of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's policies, however unpopular they may be in some quarters.

He also favours the restoration of capital punishment for murder, without restricting the penalty to terrorist killings or the murder of policemen.

Mr Butcher, who is tall and slim and was educated at Malvern, appeared to be something of an "identikit" Tory. He was a former official of the Bow Group, saw part-time service in the Royal Naval Reserve and was a former member of the Kensington and Chelsea Council.

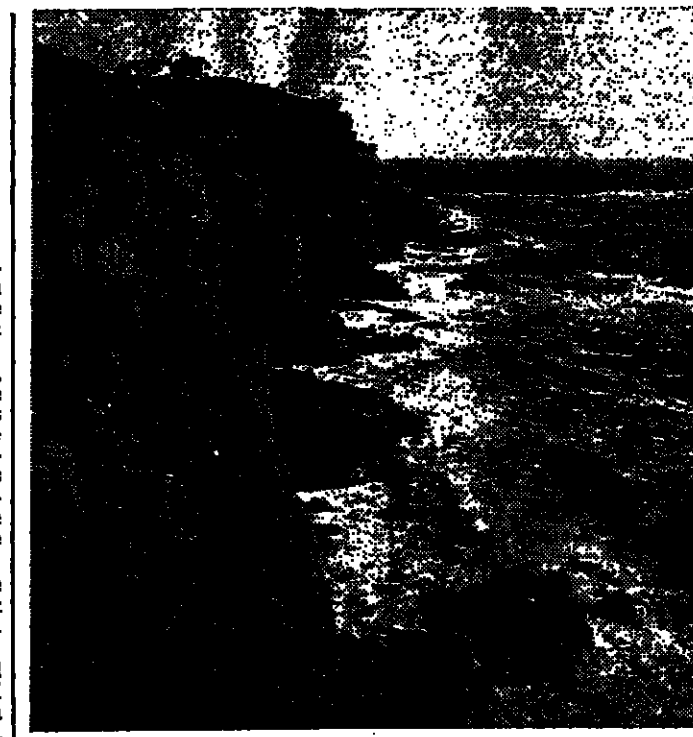
He said his enemy remained socialism, which he thought had now taken on a new label. He described the Social Democratic Party as "a lacklustre new party which would offer nothing substantially different from the old Labour Party". Mrs Williams had already planned the socialist label on herself because of her views on education, he said.

Mr Butcher is the son of Commander Bruce Butcher, a well known figure in the North-west, a former member of Cheshire County Council and Warrington District Council, and twice a Conservative prospective candidate, whose frequently outspoken views aligned to the extreme right of Toryism earned him considerable fame.

His son said yesterday: "My father often stirred change up. I intend to do the same."

General election: Sir R. G. Page (C), 34,788; A. Hill (L), 9,302; P. Brown (SDP), 1,483; C. majority, 19,272.

Reinold Butt, page 12



Lot 1: Land's End including the State House

Developers and trust may compete for Land's End

By Frances Gibb

The battle for one of Britain's most famous headlands, Land's End, began officially yesterday when the Cornish landmark went on the open market at a price in the region of £1,750,000.

The fight for the 105 acres of cliff top and its few buildings is likely to be between the conservationists on the one hand and the shape of the National Trust, and developers, possibly from overseas, keen to exploit what the estate agents call the area's untapped leisure potential.

Mr Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby, managing partner of Humberston Landplan, the leisure and consultancy division of the chartered surveyors who are handling the sale, said yesterday: "It could easily be bumped up to something very large, but of great calibre."

With a current revenue of £500,000, Land's End was very much a going concern, he said. "It is a substantial business. The existing operation is run in a very low-key manner; there is enormous potential."

The headline, although one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions, drawing a million visitors a year, had not been the subject of marketing and advertising such as had been seen at Windsor Safari Park, Woburn, Longleat and Beaulieu, Humberston said.

Mr Talbot-Ponsonby told a press conference in London that there was overseas interest, but

he could not say yet that the potential buyer would come in "at an acceptable level".

The National Trust said yesterday that for some time it had been interested in buying Land's End under its programme "Enterprise Neptune", which aims to acquire and protect the best of the country's coastline and already owns 411 miles.

In a statement issued yesterday, the trust said it would consider a purchase "seriously and urgently". The property would be evaluated, outline plans for restoration and improvements prepared and a final decision whether to make an offer would be announced on December 18.

The current owner of Land's End, Mr Charles Neave-Hill, aged 34, the fourth son of the late Lord Neave, who is at present in America, told *The Times* recently that he could no longer carry out the responsibilities he felt necessary to safeguard the future of the headland.

With the cliffs of Land's End, which have been known as the Seat of Storms to the Romans and the Headland of Blood to the Saxons, are the State House, now a public house and home of the owner; the famous First and Last Inn, now a gift shop and snack bar; the First and Last Inn at Seaton and other cottages and houses.

The property will be sold as one lot or as five separate lots.



Lot 2: The First and Last Inn

Tourist air fares to US to rise by a third

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

Tourist fares across the Atlantic, which fell by as much as 60 per cent in recent price-cutting, are to rise by 30 per cent over the next six months.

The higher fares will be charged by Lakes Airways as well as big airlines such as British Airways and Pan American, who cut theirs to match Sir Freddie Laker's new prices last weekend.

The first stage of the rise will be about 20 per cent in March, with a further 10 per cent in July. But the summer tourist

fare of £169 to New York from July will still be much less than last summer's £253.

The present New York single of £124 will rise at the end of March to £153.

Cuts of up to a half on air fares to European capitals are being offered, without waiting for EEC changes, by British Airways and British Caledonian in association with Lunn Poly, the travel agency.

The new "Cost-Cutter" fares will offer seats on scheduled services.

\$2,500 FOR MAN BEATEN BY PC

A bank representative who was beaten in a police car six years ago was awarded £2,500 damages and costs by the High Court in Sheffield yesterday.

A settlement was announced when Mr Paul Donnor, of Church Lane, Eagle, near Lincoln, claimed damages against the former Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, Mr Philip Knights, and Police Constable Matthew Meek.

After claiming that he was wrongfully arrested outside a Sheffield nightclub, and beaten, he brought a prosecution against PC Meek, who in April, 1976, was found guilty by a jury at Sheffield Crown Court of assault causing bodily harm.

Warning by Healey of SDP threat

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

Mr Denis Healey yesterday appealed to the Labour Party to move away from the policies and the intolerance of the hard left. The Labour deputy leader said in the latest edition of *New Socialist* that on present form the Social Democrats could prevent Labour winning the next election.

"Despite their public jealousies over the leadership, their unresolved battle with the Liberals for winnable constituencies, their middle-class image and the political vacuum at their heart, the Social Democrats are set to win safe Labour seats in working-class wards all over the country," he wrote.

"The polls show their support as strong among working people as anywhere else."

If such success was maintained, then Labour might be forced to return to the opposition benches at the next election, Mr Healey said.

The alternative would be to accept proportional representation as the price of alliance support; "with the risk that if we refused, the Tories would accept its terms in any case."

Mr Healey said that it was wrong to attribute the success of the SDP to extensive racism, or to prejudice in the media. "The root cause is the failure of the Labour Party over the last two years to present an alternative to Thatcherism, which commands the confidence of working people."

Now that the party had been given a three-year respite from its constitutional wrangling by last month's Brighton conference, the opportunity should be taken to win back the millions of past and potential Labour voters who had been deserting over the past thirty years.

"That means above all showing them that we are still a party of humanity and common sense, tolerant of the great diversity of attitudes and opinions which the Labour Party must always contain if it is genuinely to represent half of the British people."

In a sentence which might be addressed to either Mr Margaret Thatcher or Mr Wedgwood Benn, he said that a search for consensus did not entail an abandonment of conviction. "The type of conviction which rejects consensus is incompatible with the democratic management of a modern industrial economy."

Owen challenges Foot to head-on contest

Dr David Owen, parliamentary leader of the Social Democratic Party, yesterday reacted strongly to a charge made at the beginning of the Queen's Speech debate that SDP MPs were sitting in the Commons under false pretences (Philip Webster writes).

In a letter to Mr Foot, Dr Owen called on him to resign his Ebbw Vale seat and to fight him in a by-election in his Plymouth, Devonport constituency, with each putting his respective party's case. Mr Foot represented that constituency from 1945 to 1955.

The challenge was later described by Mr Foot as "infantile and absurd, but it indicated the obvious deterioration in public relations between the Social Democrats and their former colleagues."

BLACKLISTED CHOIR CHIEF RESIGNS

From Our Correspondent Swansea

The tour of South Africa by the Welsh Jones Boys Choir has led to the resignation of Mr Dan Leahy, chairman of the world-famous Morriston Orpheus.

He appeared on the United Nations blacklist containing details of 31 of the 70 Welsh choristers who joined a tour of South Africa in the face of international opposition from Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Two other Morriston Orpheus men were on the list, Mr Evan Roberts and Mr Gwyn Harris.

Mr Leahy, chairman of the choir for two years and before that its general secretary for six, said he had been told by members of the committee that he, Mr Roberts and Mr Harris would be expelled.

"As long as it was not illegal to go there, then a choir's management committee should not take it upon itself to punish those who exercise their personal freedom," he added.

PLAN TO ASSESS SPENDING POLICY

Whitehall released details yesterday about how it would measure the effectiveness of its public spending programmes (Peter Hennessy writes).

Sir Anthony Rawlinson, Second Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and Civil Service that it was hoped that the practice of output measurement could be extended to cover half of public expenditure, from £52,000m, by the end of 1982.

The concept was a difficult one to introduce, but the Department of Health and Social Security in particular had shown it could be done, Sir Anthony added.

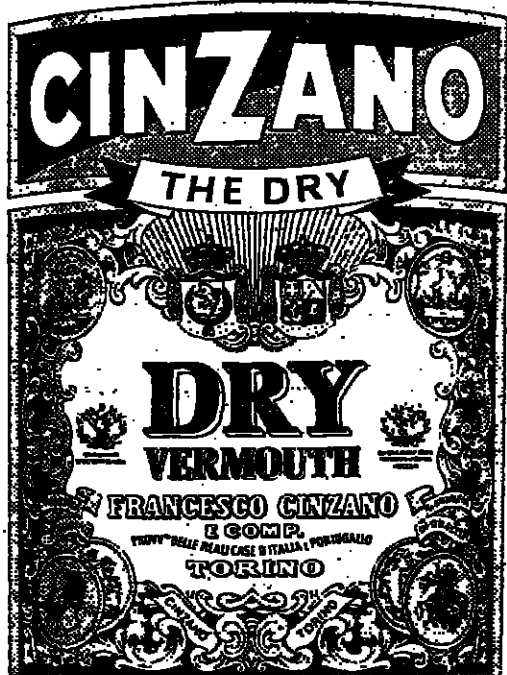
CORRECTION

The list of local councils where Liberals have recently won seats from the Conservatives, published on October 31, should not have included Canterbury, where there have been no recent by-elections.

Overseas selling prices

Austria	25.00	Canada	22.50
Belgium	18.00	France	18.00
Denmark	22.00	Germany	22.00
Finland	22.00	Italy	22.00
France	18.00	Japan	22.00
Germany	22.00	Netherlands	22.00
Greece	22.00	Portugal	22.00
Italy	22.00	Spain	22.00
Japan	22.00	Sweden	22.00
Netherlands	22.00	Switzerland	22.00
Portugal	22.00	USA	22.00
Spain	22.00	West Germany	22.00
Sweden	22.00	Yugoslavia	22.00

Dry Fawkes night.



It makes other vermouths seem a little wet.

Romanian in immigration dispute flies home

By Craig Seton

A Romanian footballer flew home from Heathrow airport yesterday, leaving behind a dispute about why he had withdrawn an application for refugee immigration officials to stay in Britain.

Senior officials of the Romanian Embassy in London protested that Georgea Viscreanu, aged 19, had never asked to stay in Britain, and through an interpreter from the embassy in Bucharest, told the airport that he wanted to return home to his family.

But the Home Office said yesterday that Mr Viscreanu, a member of the Romania Under-20 Youth Cup team which had been visiting Australia, had applied for permission to stay in Britain when he landed from Melbourne on January 14, but which the application form, while it was being considered.

Before he flew home he was spoken to by Mr Horiz Georgescu, the general secretary of the British Romanian Association, an organization for Romanian exiles, who said that although Mr Viscreanu told him repeatedly that he wanted to return home, the association was being put under pressure to do so.

An official of the Romanian Embassy in London, said: "I cannot for one moment think why they said that he had withdrawn his application in London" and then changed his mind."



Looking back: Colonel Maurice Whitcombe, aged 81, at home in Ware, Hertfordshire, with two of his paintings of Victorian locomotives. Others feature in an exhibition opened yesterday at the Science Museum, London.

£14-a-week woman spent cash on groceries

From Our Correspondent
Stourport

A woman told yesterday how she spent the £14 a week she received for working six-day week of 54 hours as shop assistant.

Mrs Joyce Smallman, age 54, of the Council House, Great Whitley, near Stourport, Worcestershire, has been awarded £400 compensation and almost £3,000 back pay after telling Birmingham Industrial Tribunal that she had been dismissed when she complained about her wages.

Mrs Smallman had worked since 1961 at a village shop, Martley, Worcestershire. She had spent almost all her wages on groceries at the shop. "I got no discount," she said.

"I began to suspect my wages were very low when our rent rose to over £19 a week."

She started at £10 a week 12 years ago but she did not realize her pay was so far below the national average because she never discussed wages with her husband, a foundry worker, or her son or daughter.

"I was grateful to have a job. There is very little work in the area."

Yesterday, Mr Dakin, who too distressed to discuss the case. His wife said they were determined to pay Mrs Smallman all the money they could, and that they owed her nothing if she meant selling the business.

John L. Gardner, the former European heavyweight boxing champion, - yesterday was jailed for 50 days by magistrates at Highbury, north London, for driving offences.

Mrs Ann Wallace for the defence, had asked Mr Barr, the magistrate, not to jail: Mr Gardner, because he hoped to make a professional boxer again and because his wife was pregnant.

But Mr Barr, who had been told that Mr Gardner had been seen three times driving a car while disqualified, the third time driving from the passenger seat, said: "I have definitely flouted the law."

Mr Gardner, of Winston Road, Stoke Newington, north London, was fined a total of £90 for "driving without insurance and a banned driver."

He was driving for a further six months in L.A.S. May he was disqualified from driving for a year for having no insurance.

Four armed men ambushed a Security Express van in New Ash Green, Kent, yesterday and escaped with £100,000.

The raiders blocked the road with a van and a car and smashed the security van's windows to get in. They forced the driver to take them half a mile to a field, where two motor cycles and a car were waiting.

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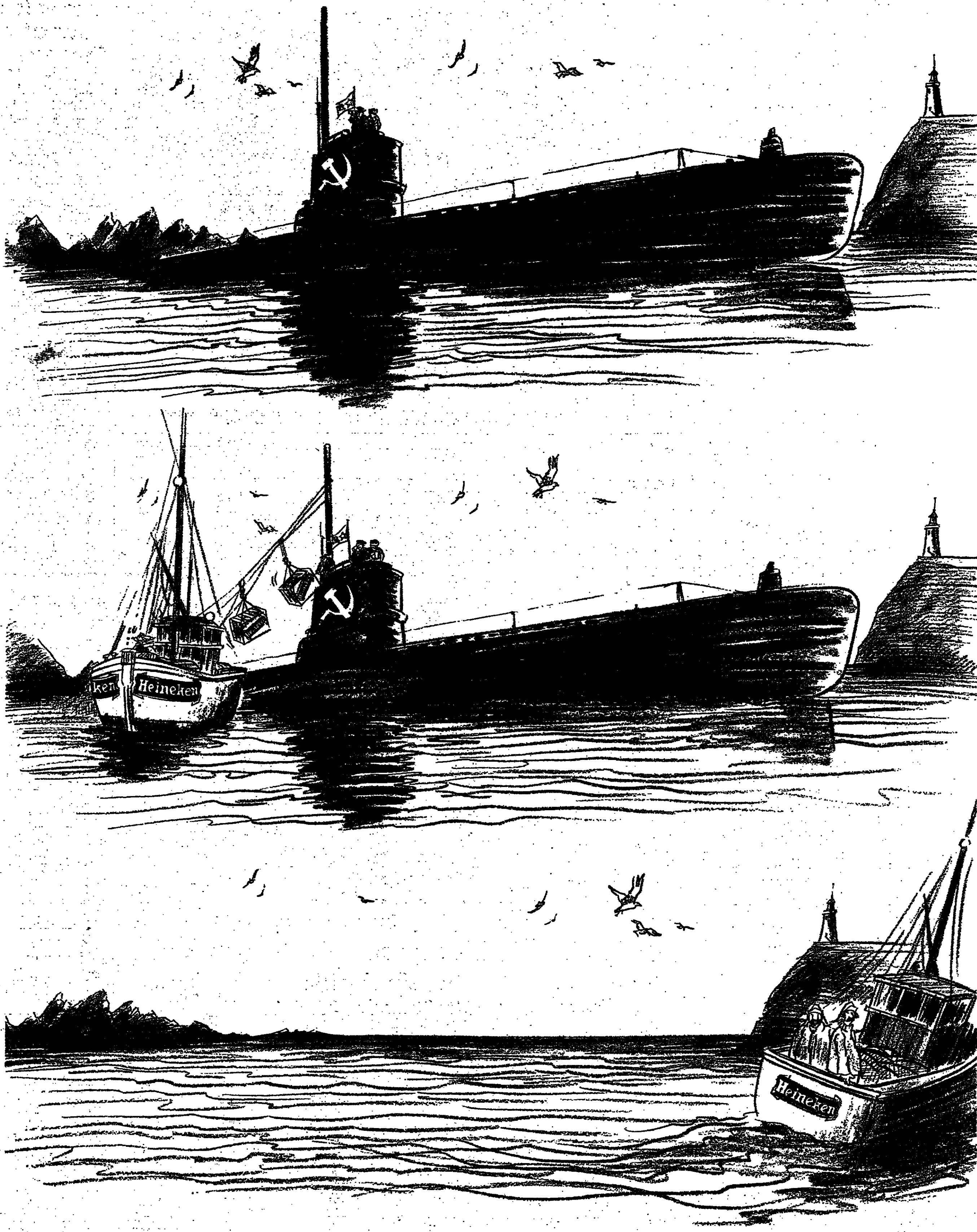
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Saudis hope Arab summit will endorse peace plan

From Edward Mortimer, Riyadh, Nov 4

Saudi Arabia's rulers are very hopeful that their eight-point plan for peace in the Middle East will be endorsed at the Arab summit meeting to be held in Fez, Morocco, later this month.

This was the main point to emerge today during talks between Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, representing the European Community, and key members of the Saudi royal family.

Lord Carrington met his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud al-Faisal, for more than two hours this morning. He then had a brief audience of King Khalid, followed by a meeting of more than one hour with Crown Prince Fahd, the Deputy Prime Minister, who first announced the eight-point plan in August.

He resumed discussions with Prince Saud over lunch, and later talked to Prince Sultan, the Defence Minister, and Prince Abdullah, the Commander of the National Guard.

The Saudis were evidently encouraged by their talks yesterday with Mr. Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. It seems they are now confident that the PLO will support their plan, even though some Palestinian groups are opposed to it, and as a result they are less concerned about the disappointing statements that have come out of Syria and Iraq.

They have noted that among Arab governments only Libya has expressed outright hostility to the plan, and they are

apparently hoping that neither Syria nor Iraq will choose to stand in the way of a developing Arab accord supported by the PLO.

The Syrians were able to keep the PLO away from the last Arab summit in Amman a year ago. But relations between the two sides have since deteriorated and Mr. Arafat now seems less willing to respond to Syrian pressure.

By welcoming the Saudi plan he is also showing his independence from the Soviet Union, which has come out against it in spite of the recent Soviet gesture raising the PLO office in Moscow to the status of an embassy.

At the same time, the Saudis seem disposed to make a gesture to the more Moscow-orientated states in the Arab world, such as Syria, and Algeria, by offering at least in words, their traditional strongly anti-Soviet position. In an interview published here yesterday, Prince Fahd spoke warmly of the Soviet decision on the PLO's status, and emphasized that both superpowers had responsibilities in the region.

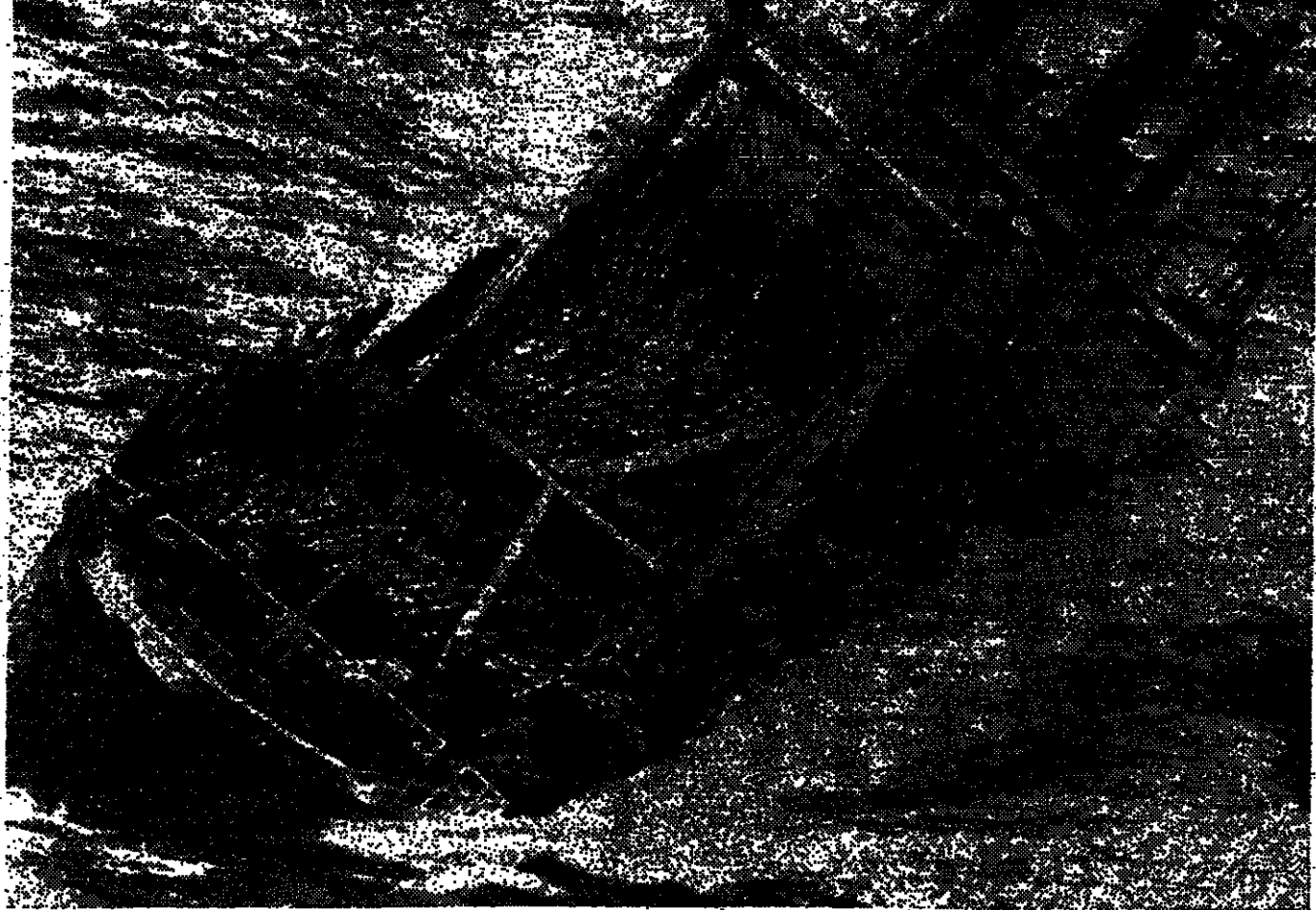
In European eyes the key point in Prince Fahd's peace plan is number seven, which says that "all states in the region should be able to live in peace." The Saudi leaders made it clear that this formula is intended to embrace Israel, and when Israel embraces the plan, it will be able to bring to fruition its contribution to the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East.

1967 and the setting up of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Stuart Christie, a British businessman who has been detained in Saudi Arabia in connection with a murder case since May last year, is expected to be allowed to leave in the next few days.

On May 26, 1980 a British employee of the company of which he was general manager was found dead. Mr. Christie was not arrested or charged but as general manager of the company he was questioned by police and forbidden to leave the country until they completed their enquiries. The British Embassy has repeatedly raised the case with the Saudi authorities.

Following a meeting lasting two hours with Mr. Thomas O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Mr. Clement Zablocki, chairman of the House foreign affairs committee, he said he hoped that the United States would in time be able to bring to fruition its contribution to the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East.



Adrift and alone: The cargo ship Dragon wallows helplessly in the Japan Sea after the logs it is carrying broke free and caused a 45-degree list. The 24 crew were taken off by helicopter.

Broglie murder trial opens after five years

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Nov 4

Will M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, be summoned as a witness in the case of Prince Jean de Broglie which opened today before the Paris Assizes?

The Prince, a son of a prominent politician and co-founder, with M. Giscard d'Estaing, of the Independent Republican Party in 1968. But, as it turned out, he was also a man with a great need for money and a mediator in a number of unsuccessful business ventures with complex international ramifications. He was shot in broad daylight on a Paris street on December 24, 1975.

That is almost the only thing which is certain about the affair which has remained shrouded in mystery after five years of judicial investigation, marked by a bewildering succession of political and juridical twists and turns.

Four men are charged with investigating, organising, and executing the crime, but on whose account and for what reason is far from clear. Maître Roland Dumas, the leading counsel for the defence, insisted that the presence of M. Giscard d'Estaing was essential to the disclosure of the truth.

But the court shrank from an immediate ruling in a matter so delicate and potentially explosive. It would decide later, in the light of the hearings, M. André Giresse, the presiding judge, announced after the court had retired for half an hour to deliberate.

But the court insisted that M. Roger Chénouard, the former chairman of the Independent Republican Party, should be a witness, although he has written to say that he was not in a position to shed any light on the case.

Everything is exceptional about this case. M. Downing Carter, the chief public prosecutor, pointed out that "it is not usual for a case to be heard five years after a crime was committed. It is not usual for a former president to be called to the witness stand. It is not usual for an affair to be the subject of so much comment and controversy."

No request was made during the investigation preceding the trial for M. Giscard d'Estaing to be heard. But I have no objection to this, if the court thinks it is necessary for the enlightenment of justice.

The four men in the dock were Pierre de Vange, aged 59, a business associate of the Prince for several years who is charged with instigating the murder; Guy Simonet, 33, a former police inspector referred to in the indictment as the organizer of what he described as an act of euthanasia; Gérard Frêche, 31, a policeman charged with carrying out the deed; and Serge Tessedre, 30, accused of having put M. Frêche in touch with M. Simonet.

IN BRIEF

Danes expel Soviet envoy

Copenhagen. — Mr Vladimir Merkulov, a Second Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Copenhagen since 1977, has been expelled from Denmark for subversive activities.

The Copenhagen newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* reported that Danish intelligence had discovered that Mr Merkulov was an agent of the KGB, the Soviet secret police.

N Korea accuses US

Tokyo. — North Korea accused the United States of continually violating its air space with fast SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft. The North Korean Central News Agency said the latest violation occurred this week. They said it was the 12th in October.

Red Brigades trial

Milan. — The second main trial this week of suspected members of the Italian Red Brigades group opened here. A total of 100 alleged members face charges of belonging to an armed gang and of making a number of attacks, including the kidnapping of a newspaper editor.

Israel shuts down Arab university on West Bank

From Christopher Walker

Jerusalem, Nov 4

After a fresh wave of Palestinian unrest in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli military government today ordered the indefinite closure of Bir Zeit, the largest Arab university in the region. The decision comes in the wake of three days of sporadic anti-Israeli demonstrations.

The closure order was issued as troops were still surrounding the campus and all students and members of the academic staff were ordered to leave. Earlier in the day, Israeli soldiers had used tear gas and fired shots in the air to break up a demonstration against the arrest of a number of students.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, there were further widespread disturbances during the day. Israeli military vehicles were stoned, road blocks set up, tyres burned and illegal Palestinian flags hoisted.

Most of the Arab demonstrators were either university students or school children. A number of arrests were made. Coming after the imposition of a curfew in Hebron earlier this week and the demolition of two houses belonging to relatives of Arabs suspected of being a Jewish settler, the Bir Zeit closure was cited by radical Palestinians as further evidence that there has been no softening in Israel's security policies.

In political circles, there was speculation that the shutting of the main West Bank academic institution could harm the atmosphere at the crucial negotiations on Palestinian autonomy due to open in Cairo next week. President Mubarak's Government has repeatedly requested Israel to introduce "confidence-building measures" in the occupied area.

The latest trouble at Bir Zeit began on Monday, when students staged violent demonstrations to protest, on the sixtieth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, against the new Israeli policy of dividing the civilian and military administration in the West Bank. One slogan chanted by the students was: "Yet to the PLO. No to autonomy."

Today's order was issued by Major-General Danny Matz, the Israeli coordinator of government activities in the occupied territory. It followed repeated warnings to Dr. Baran, the Palestinian vice-chancellor of the university, whose own daughter was injured when Israeli soldiers fired on student demonstrators last year.

A statement from the Israeli Defence Ministry explained: "The policy of the Government of Israel is that every effort should be made to make things easier for the local population while maintaining absolute order, and preventing hostile activity. This policy will continue."

With about 2,000 students, Bir Zeit has long been a focal point for the struggle between Arabs and Jews in the West Bank. The university was closed for a week last November, for two months in 1979 and for two weeks in 1973. In 1974, the president and two members of the board of governors were deported to Jordan.

PLO urges Britain to stay out of Sinai force

By David Spanier

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has added its voice to those Arab countries urging Britain not to take part in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

A memorandum urging Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, "to give serious consideration to the implications of Britain's participation in the Sinai force and the clear association with the Camp David process which a decision would involve" was delivered to the Foreign Office yesterday by Mr. Nabil Ramlawi, the London representative of the PLO.

A Foreign Office spokesman confirming the call by Mr. Ramlawi, said the meeting was at junior official level, but declined to go into details.

In a press statement, Mr. Ramlawi said support for the Camp David process was considered by the PLO as "a wholly retrograde move which would be reflected in future relations between Britain and the Arab states."

Although the PLO wanted Britain to play a role in promoting a new and independent initiative to resolve the Palestinian issue, it claimed that the Camp David process undermined international efforts to secure a just settlement.

Britain's reported decision to join the Sinai force, Mr. Ramlawi added, "created a serious obstacle to our mutual desire to improve and strengthen economic and political cooperation between Britain and the Arab states."

In sharp contrast, Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign

Minister, insisted yesterday that countries providing contingents to the multinational force had been warned they would disqualify themselves if they attempted to deviate from the Camp David accord.

Jerusalem. In the wake of the recent serious strain in relations between Israel and America, Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, today received a personal message of reassurance from Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State (Christopher Walker writes).

It was relayed during a private meeting in Jerusalem with the chargé d'affaires from the American Embassy. According to Israeli radio, the Reagan Administration pledged in the message to follow the Camp David accord as the only way of achieving further settlements in the middle east.

America pulls out of Arab satellite deal

The United States has withdrawn its proposal to help Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization to set up a communications satellite system, Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said (Reuters reports from Washington).

Congress was formally notified on Tuesday of the proposed \$79m (£40m) sale by Ford Aerospace. It was to provide the equipment for the Arab telephone communications satellite built by Aerospatiale of France for a consortium of 21 Arab and African countries and the PLO.

Mr. René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, appeared to confirm that assessment when he described the new Trudeau formula as "an honourable way out" of the constitutional stalemate.

However, others among the eight premiers opposed to the Prime Minister's original plan swung against it.

Mr. William Davis, Premier of Ontario, put forward a proposal designed to bridge the wide gap between Mr. Trudeau and the majority of the Canadian constitution from Britain.

Mr. Davis is one of two provincial leaders who support the Prime Minister's existing plan, now awaiting final parliamentary approval, for asking Westminster to turn the constitution over to Canada with entrenching an amending formula and a bill of rights.

Elsewhere the other nine premiers, all except Mr. Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick, are against the Prime Minister's package.

Mr. Davis's compromise calls for the federal side to abandon its proposed amending formula in favour of one favoured by the eight.

Canadian Indians threaten violence

A delegation of Canadian Indian chiefs threatened violence if the Ottawa Government failed to guarantee the rights of their people.

They claimed at a press conference in London that Mr. Trudeau was trying to rob them of their old treaty rights through the transfer of the Canadian constitution from London to Ottawa.

Their leader, Chief Solomon Sanderson said: "Our backs are to the wall. We see violence on the television screens in Britain every night. The IRA are fighting for their political independence. It will be no different in Canada."

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"We are not going away, either in Britain or in Canada, until we have a response," he said.

"This is no way to treat a group which represents 15 million voters," Mr. Allan said. He added that during their talks in Washington he had not detected any great sense of awareness or concern about the growing anti-nuclear movement in Europe. "It was as though we were talking to Mrs Thatcher," he commented.

Trudeau has plans to save talks

From John Best

Ottawa, Nov 4

The federal-provincial conference on Canada's constitution took a new twist today when Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, suddenly shifted ground on the issue of a bill of rights for all Canadians.

Mr. Trudeau emerged from a closed session with the 10 provincial premiers to say he had "great news." He had put forward a new proposal under which the British North America Act would be brought home immediately from Westminster and the highly contentious issue of the rights bill settled later.

The provinces would have two years to accept or reject the proposed rights declaration. If they rejected it, the issue would be put to a referendum. The three-year process of a constitutional amendment would also be settled by referendum after two years.

The plan drew initial support from French-speaking Quebec.

However, Mr. Trudeau has always insisted that the bill of rights is an indispensable and inseparable part of his constitutional reform package. He astounded reporters by telling them after this morning's meeting that he was "not at all" developing between Quebec and Canada.

Mr. René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, appeared to confirm that assessment when he described the new Trudeau formula as "an honourable way out" of the constitutional stalemate.

However, others among the eight premiers opposed to the Prime Minister's original plan swung against it.

Mr. William Davis, Premier of Ontario, put forward a proposal designed to bridge the wide gap between Mr. Trudeau and the majority of the Canadian constitution from Britain.

Mr. Davis is one of two provincial leaders who support the Prime Minister's existing plan, now awaiting final parliamentary approval, for asking Westminster to turn the constitution over to Canada with entrenching an amending formula and a bill of rights.

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Democrats' victory hits Reagan standing

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Nov 4

A stunning victory for the Democrats in Virginia, and a cliff-hanging apparent victory for the Republicans in New Jersey sent mixed signals to President Reagan today on the public attitude to his policies.

It was generally agreed, however, that the results of yesterday's elections—the first statewide votes that have been taken since Mr. Reagan's own victory last year—show continued support for conservative policies and financial stringency.

Mr. Charles Robb, the Lieutenant Governor, who is married to a former President Lyndon Johnson's daughter, Lynda, won the governorship of the state of Virginia by 54 per cent against 46 per cent. Democrats also won the state's two leading state offices, which were contested.

Albany, Mr. Robb's opponent, tried to link Mr. Robb to President Johnson's big spending "Great Society," he presented himself as differing sharply from President Reagan's economic policies.

However, the President had campaigned in the state for Mr. Robb's rival, saying that he was "the right kind" of candidate, and Mr. Robb's clear victory—the first Democrat governor in the state since 1965—was a serious blow to his nearest rival, Mr. Reagan's public standing.

In New Jersey, on the other hand, where registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by two-thirds of the two candidates came to a virtual draw. With more than two million votes, Mr. Robb, the Republican, Mr. Thomas Kean, leads the Democrat Mr. James Florio, by 1,090 votes.

After the counting was

New York mayor reelected

Koch promises action to help city blacks

From Our Own Correspondent, New York, Nov 4

Mr Edward Koch was reelected as Mayor of New York by a landslide of almost 70 per cent of the voters.

The result had been widely predicted, not least by Mr. Koch himself.

For the first time a mayoral candidate was supported by both the Democratic and Republican parties. "I don't just want to hear him," he said before the election about his rival Mr. Frank Barbaro: "I want to humiliate him."

Mr. Barbaro, a lacklustre trade union stalwart, was heavily defeated in the Democratic primary and then chose to run again under a different party label. He was duly humiliated.

"If Frank Barbaro makes another speech," said a commentator, "Koch will take Canada as well."

Curiously Mr. Koch's popularity has soared while life in New York has become appreciably worse. Crime is increasing on the streets and on the subways. The mass transit system is filthy, late, and grossly overcrowded, and they are getting filthier, later and more crowded.

The traffic jams become more horrendous, the taxes get higher. And yet more than three quarters of the inhabitants think that the mayor is doing a good job.

Firstly, the mayor is perceived as having led New York as he himself frequently puts it, "from the edge of bankruptcy" to the edge of bankruptcy.

He said: "We have a balanced budget. That means we have money to hire more cops, to increase the sanitation men. It means that we can borrow money again to build bridges and houses."

Secondly, he is a brilliant performer on the stump. He is

Young tell CDU what is wrong

From Patricia Clough

Hamburg, Nov 4

The fear of nuclear weapons, disease and pacifist arguments which are dividing the West German Government parties, were also voiced by young people today at the annual congress of the opposition conservative Christian Democrats.

A stream of speakers aged between 16 and 25 who took the microphone made it clear that the peace and protest movement among the West German young had crossed the ideological spectrum into the CDU's own ranks and its sympathisers.

Their views were generally less extreme than those of many young socialists, but while older Social Democrats and Free Democrats share their feelings, the Christian Democrats gave them a hearing but no support.

"I am afraid," confessed a young man in his early twenties, "we have in Europe incredible machines of destruction... To think we can blow the globe into space two or three times over is absurd because the politicians who can press the button do not think or act rationally."

Several argued that the Christian approach, since the party calls itself Christian, would be to insist that the West took a first step in disarmament.

"I am disappointed in the party," a tall youth complained. "Christians should love their enemies and urge non-violence rather than the senseless arms race."

"Our fixation with this danger is making us blind to the real danger in the world: the gap between rich and poor countries," another young speaker said amid warm applause.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the party chairman, argued that emotion was not a sufficient basis to make huge and important decisions such as the stationing of nuclear weapons.

Herr Richard von Weizsäcker opened the debate by arguing that the Western defence strategy and the NATO decision to station new medium-range missiles was the only basis for peace and détente.

The congress was dedicated mainly to discussions with 500 specially invited young people in an effort to "wake young people up to the increasing danger of turning their backs on this solid, conservative party."

Herr Kohl, who has been trying to keep controversy out of the party to present a contrast to the strife-ridden Social Democrats, tried to be understanding, turning their backs on this solid, conservative party.

He admitted that mistakes had been made, but insisted that only "the values and virtues which have brought our country affluence and a position of respect in the world" could solve the problems of the future.

Several thousand left wingers took part in a demonstration in Hamburg tonight claiming that the Christian Democratic defence policy was a danger to peace.

Frankfurt violence grows

Frankfurt, Nov 4. — A dozen people were injured in Frankfurt today when police clashed with ecologists still protesting against the building of a third runway through woodland at the city's international airport.

A woman was injured when she was hit by flying glass after a bomb exploded at Frankfurt airport, police said today. The bomb was placed in a subway telephone booth.

Earlier, an arson attack against a branch of the Deutsche Bank in a western residential quarter of the city caused damage estimated at DM100,000 (£24,000) and glass doors were broken in various districts, the police said. They

declined to say whether the violence was linked to protesters over the airport.

The violence came after a night in which thousands of demonstrators protested in Munich, Bremen, Stuttgart, Aachen, Göttingen and Hamburg against police demolition on Monday of an ecologist camp set up on the site of the proposed runway.

A hundred ecologists were today still occupying the runway site, where police are standing by while forest clearance work gets under way. Only 300 yards from where the ecologists' village stood, three have been rebuilt.

—AEP and Reuters.



Smiling through: Jonathan Amst, aged five, of Pennsylvania, tries to ignore his plaster-clad arm which was sewn back after an accident.

Pentagon walkout by MP

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 4

A 12-member delegation from the Socialist International organization walked out in high dudgeon from the Pentagon because of the discourteous and shameful treatment they received from the Reagan Administration.

Mr. Frank Alloun, Labour MP for Salford East and the British member of the delegation which came to Washington to talk about arms control, said the treatment they had received confirmed his worst fears about the Administration's attitude towards disarmament.

When Socialist International sent a similar delegation to Washington two years ago they were received by President Carter and senior members of his administration.

This time they have been received by what Mr. Alloun termed "office boys" although they did spend a short time with Mr. Walter Stuessel, Deputy Secretary for political affairs, and Mr. Eugene Rostow, head of the arms control and disarmament agency.

To add insult to injury, when they turned up at the Pentagon

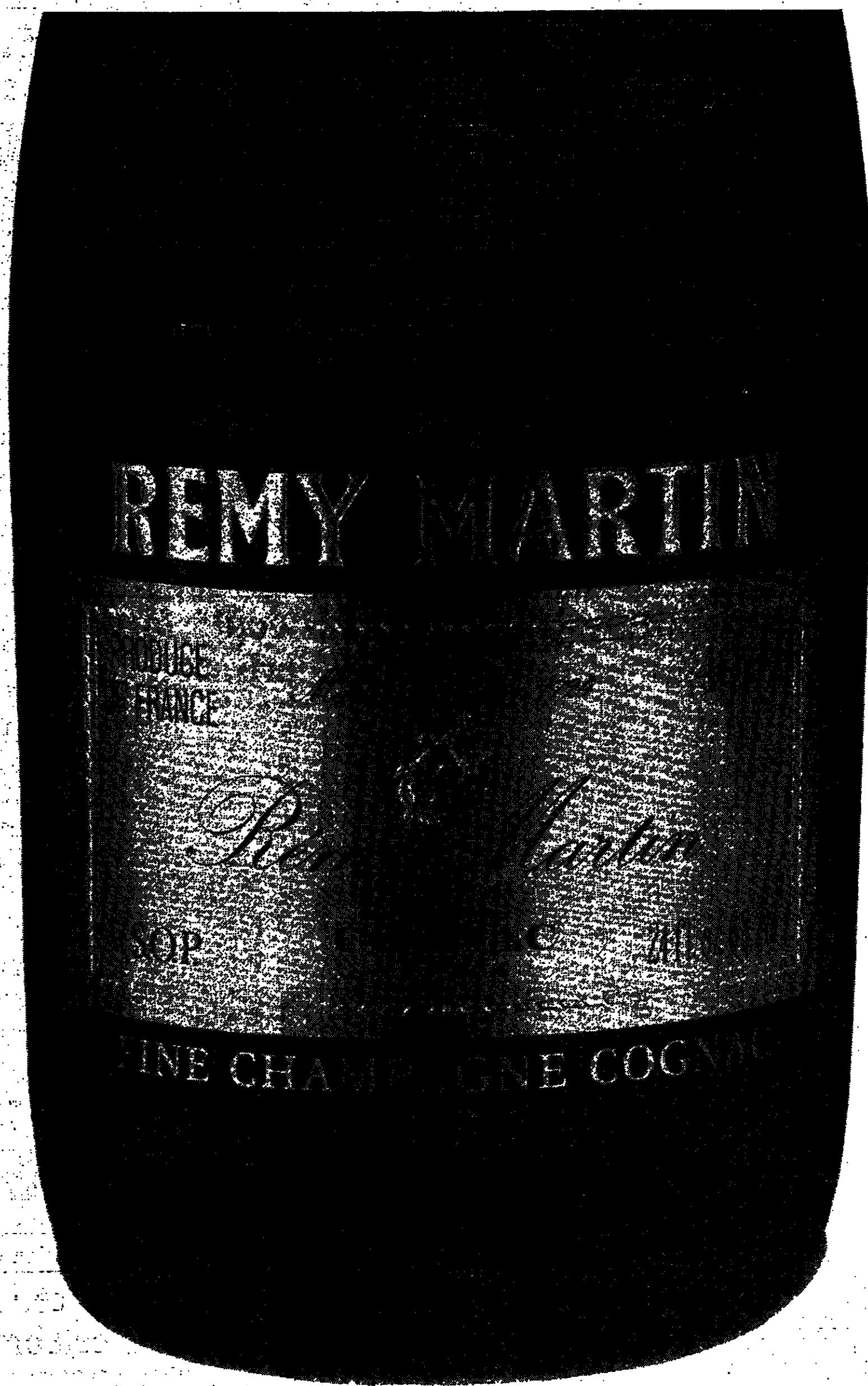
yesterday to see Mr. Fred Ikle, Under-Secretary for Policy, they were kept waiting over half an hour without explanation. So they all walked out.

"This is no way to treat a group which represents 15 million voters," Mr. Alloun said. He added that during their talks in Washington he had not detected any great sense of awareness or concern about the growing anti-nuclear movement in Europe. "It was as though we were talking to Mrs Thatcher," he commented.

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PINBALL PROTEST

Paris. — More than 2,000 French pinball machine makers, importers, sellers and owners operators marched through Paris today to protest against the proposed ban on the machines. They were protesting about a tax imposed on every public pinball machine.



TELEGRAMS GRAND CAYMAN
DLF109 KBA 421
EVERYTHING WONDERFUL STOP
MISERABLE STOP
IMPERATIVE JOIN SOONEST STOP
TICKETS PAID I LOVE YOU
BRING REMY STOP NICK

REMY MARTIN. FINE CHAMPAGNE COGNAC.
DISTILLED ONLY FROM GRAPES GROWN IN GRANDE AND PETITE CHAMPAGNE. COGNAC'S TWO FINEST CRUS.

Belgian unity is at stake in general election

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 4

A newspaper headline posed the question which lies behind the general election campaign in Belgium: "Is there such a thing as a Belgian any longer?"

To judge by the politicking that is going on for Sunday's vote, the answer would seem to be "no". The grievances of the taxpayers of Brussels were never more vociferous. The resentment in Flanders against having to foot the bill for a seemingly bankrupt country was never more bitter.

The result is that 24 parties have put forward a list of candidates in the Brussels area. Only two parties — neither with any obvious chance of success — are national ones.

They are the Communist Party, which has not fragmented into French and Dutch halves, and the Democratic Union for the Region of Work, a new anti-tax movement with only one deputy in the old parliament but high hopes of a breakthrough in the general atmosphere of political disenchantment.

There are four ecological groups, some of whose candidates give their profession as "subversive" or "squatter". One of them campaigns for a law requiring everyone to cycle to work on Thursdays, claiming that the amount of energy thus saved would be sufficient to obviate the need for nuclear power in Belgium. Most of the smaller parties are far out to the left of the political spectrum, including the United Feminist Party and the Revolutionary Workers' League, which campaigns on the need for general strikes to give power to the workers.

The traditional political formations are grouped in three families: the Social Christians (a member of the Christian Democrat-Federalist family, but with strong trade union connections), the Socialists and the Liberals. Each of these has a Flemish and a Walloon section and in each case the Walloon section is far more radical than the Flemish one.

This election, the thirteenth since the war, was precipitated by the Walloon Socialists, who were the junior partners in the last coalition Government headed by the Flemish Social Christians. Essentially at stake was the level of government help which would be available to bail out the

sick and aging steel industry in Wallonia.

The Flemish were loth to sanction a pay out without guarantees of improved productivity, a euphemism for redundancy. The Socialists were not prepared to sanction any increase in unemployment, already the highest in Belgium, which in turn is the highest of any Western industrialized nation.

Since then the Socialists have campaigned for the creation of a federal state in Belgium. So much are they at the heart of this movement that the founder of the Walloon Party last week rejoined the Socialists after an absence of 20 years, saying that they were now the true defenders of the region.

At a trade union meeting in Liege last week representatives of the main French-speaking parties turned up to support the idea of a popular front style of government for the region in which party differences would be subjected to the essential principle of Walloon autonomy.

Some of the socialists — who have borrowed President Mitterrand's symbol of a rose in a clenched fist for their election campaign — have even gone so far as to suggest that Wallonia might be incorporated more happily into France.

This is an idea voiced by M Lucien Outers, the leader of the dominant party in Brussels, the French-speaking Christian Democrats (CDF). In an open letter to the King last month he put forth the idea of breaking away to join France, and the letter, in pamphlet form, is now a best-seller in Brussels bookshops.

Opinion polls suggest that the Flemish Social Christian Party will again dominate Parliament without having an overall majority which it achieved just once in 1950. This means that the election is really a battle to discover which partner will join them in coalition.

Against the polls suggest that the most likely partner will be the right-wing Liberal Party, which should in no way be confused with its British namesake.

The economy is teetering on the brink of bankruptcy — Mr Mark Eyskens the caretaker Prime Minister has given a warning that Belgium could run out of credit next year — and unemployment is spiralling.

Pledge by Kaunda on Namibia

Lusaka, Nov 4. — President Kaunda today pledged Zambia's cooperation in seeking an early and peaceful settlement in Namibia (South-West Africa), but added that the support depended "on certain approaches being made to the whole issue".

Dr Kaunda did not elaborate. He was speaking before a half-hour meeting of representatives of the so-called Western contact group on Namibia, comprising the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada.

But a member of his staff told reporters the Zambian attitude to the latest Western efforts to find an independence formula for the territory would depend greatly on the position adopted by South Africa, which rules Namibia in defiance of the United Nations.

The staff member said Zambia wanted to discuss a joint response to the group's new proposals, and that the Zambians in the organization of African Unity Front-Line States Committee — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe — and with the South-West Africa People's Organization, which is fighting a bush war against South African forces in the territory.

The group met Mr Ndumiso Munda, the Prime Minister and Dr Lesetja Gona, Foreign Minister, last night to outline its proposals and was due to meet Dr Gona again before leaving this afternoon for Tanzania. — Reuters.

Aborigines get their land back

Alice Springs, November 4. — The state of South Australia today handed over a tract of land and the size of Austria and Hungary combined to an Aboriginal tribe.

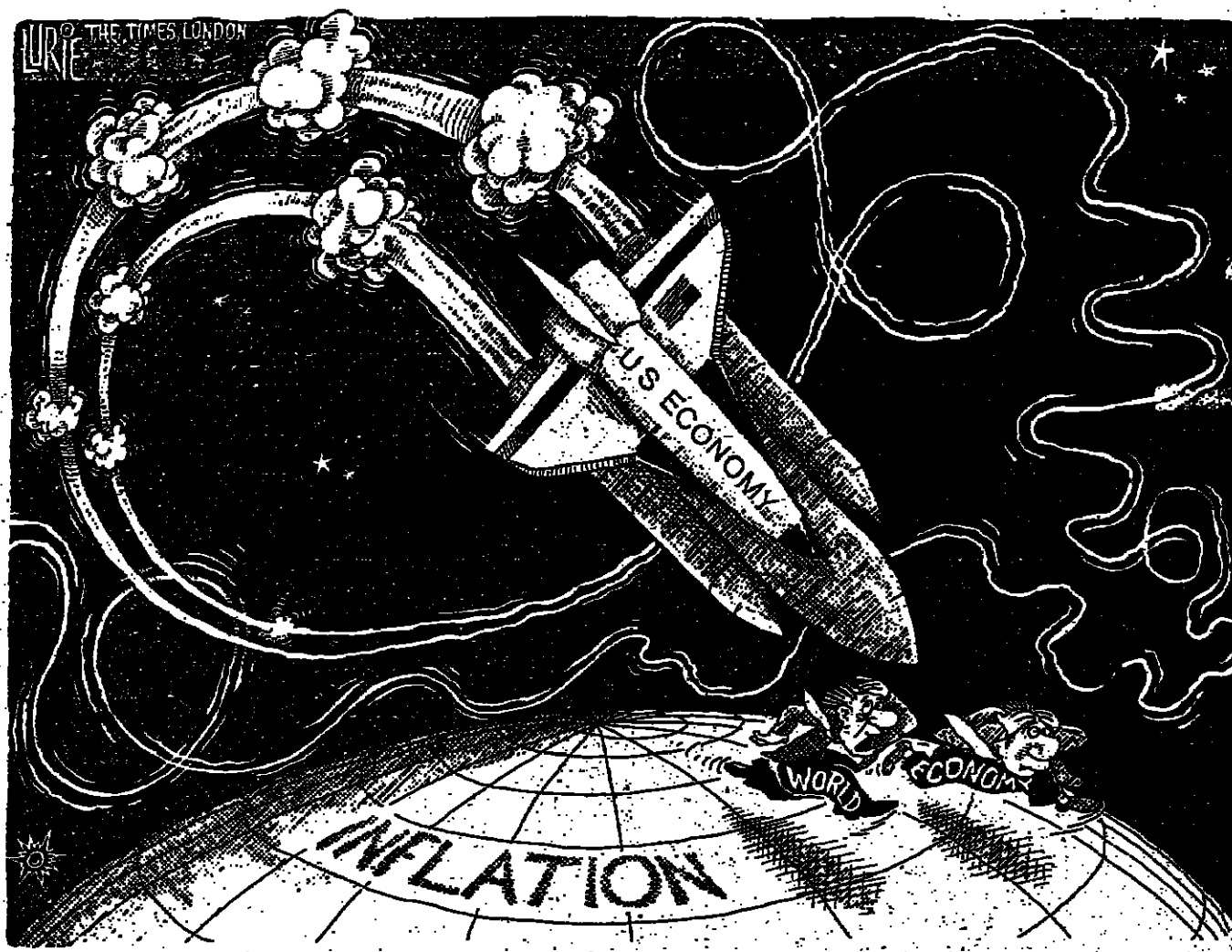
In a ceremony at the remote settlement of Itjupiri, Mr David Tonkin, the state Premier, gave leaders of the Pitjantjatjara people a certificate granting them inalienable freehold title to 40,000 square miles, a tenth of the state.

The ceremony followed the first land rights agreement of its kind signed in Australia. Restoration of their traditional lands is the major demand of Aborigines, displaced by two centuries of white settlement. The desert area in the north-west of South Australia contains an open field and most of the arid river basin which is thought to be potentially rich in minerals.

Mining companies will now have to negotiate with the Pitjantjatjara on conditions for entering the area. Disputes will be settled by an independent tribunal, charged with protecting Aboriginal wishes and culture.

Aborigines do not have similar rights anywhere else in the country except the Northern Territory, which is administered by the federal government.

The mineral-rich states of Queensland and Western Australia have resisted granting such rights and have supported mining companies exploring for resources. In Queensland, Aborigines are prohibited by law from acquiring freehold rights.



"This shuttle still can't defy gravity"

S African Indians spurn vote

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg, Nov 2

Elections to the Government of South African Indian Council (SAIC) were boycotted en masse by Indians today. Pretoria intends to devolve to the assembly some powers in such fields as education, health and social welfare.

The turnout in the elections, which were held in Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape, was described by one candidate as shockingly low, and was reported by mid-afternoon to be less than five per cent in many places. It seemed unlikely that there would be much pick-up in voting before booths closed.

The result will be regarded as a striking victory for the Natal Indian Congress, founded by Gandhi in the 1890s, which campaigned energetically for a boycott of the poll, arguing that by taking part Indians would be reinforcing apartheid.

There are 800,000 Indians in South Africa, living chiefly in the Durban area of Natal, and also in the Transvaal and parts of the Cape. Their ancestors were mainly indentured labourers brought to work on the Natal sugar plantations between 1860 and 1911 and the merchants and traders who followed them.

The SAIC, an entirely nominated body when set up in the 1960s, but now for the first time almost wholly elected, is a result of concessions offered by the Government to the Indians in an attempt to draw them into the power structure of white South Africa.

DUTCHMAN TIPPED FOR STRASBOURG

From David Wood, Strasbourg, Nov 4

As 434 members of the European Parliament yesterday received Sir James Scott-Hopkins' election address for the presidency, the Socialist Group, the majority party at Strasbourg chose its candidate, Mr Pieter Dankert, aged 47, a Dutchman.

Although he is unlikely to win until the second secret ballot, Mr Dankert is expected to be the successor to Mme Simone Veil, a Liberal MEP.

The first ballot will be largely a question of party loyalties, with Sir James, leader of the conservative-dominated European Democratic Group, and Herr Egon Klepsch, the Christian Democratic leader, in the list. Many backbenchers consider themselves free to vote for their favourite son.

The winner must have an absolute majority of votes cast.

Spanish party crisis could force Premier to call early poll

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Nov 4

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister, struggled today to control a crisis threatening his Centre Democratic Union (UCD), which could oblige him to call early general elections.

The feud between the coalition party's Christian Democratic and Social Democratic wings, basically over tactics for the next election, came to a head last night. Fifteen MPs, headed by Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the former Justice Minister and the Social Democratic leader, indicated that they were quitting the UCD, with plans to form a separate party.

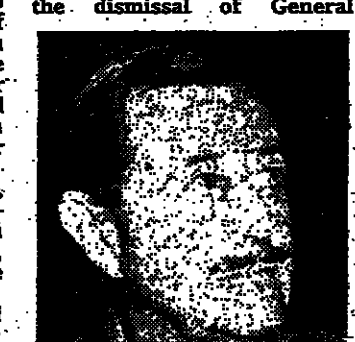
But disintegration is also under way at the other end of the party — a Christian Democrat MP has joined the Democratic Coalition of Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne and three other MPs, one Deputy Speaker of the Lower House, look like following.

The Social Democrats have, however, said they will continue to support the UCD in Parliament for the moment, although they bring down the Government.

The Prime Minister held talks almost continuously today, taking advantage of the breathing space the Social Democrats have given him. One solution may be to take over the party leadership as well.

It was split after Señor Adolfo Suárez resigned the premiership in January. The Prime Minister is striving to avoid elections because three generals allegedly implicated in February's failed coup, have still to be tried. This hangs over everything and must somehow be got out of the way first.

It explains why the UCD crisis has caused such great nervousness, with stock exchange prices dropping today. An element of bad luck for the Government, as often happens in Spain, has added to its difficulties. Señor Alberto Oliart, the Defence Minister, last night ordered the dismissal of General



General Milans del Bosch: Centre of medal dispute.

Fernando Ortiz, who decided to approve the award of a medal "for sacrifices to the fatherland", according to the citation, to General Jaime Milans del Bosch, who is awaiting trial for alleged rebellion in the February coup attempt.

The award for General Milans del Bosch, who received slight injuries when a helicopter he was travelling in was shot down in September 1980 — reported on the front page of *El Alcazar*, a right wing daily newspaper, though neither the Defence Minister nor General José Gabeiras, the army chief, knew about it beforehand.

General Ortiz, now in charge of promotions and decorations at Army headquarters, commanded a unit of the Brunete armoured division in February. It was destined to play a leading role in the coup attempt until it was ended by King Juan Carlos and loyalist officers.

The medal incident raised two crucial issues underlying the seriousness of the UCD squabbles — the degree of effective control the Government exercises over the Army hierarchy and the existence of groups within the Army openly willing to challenge the authority of democratic administration.

Arrigo Levi: A personal view

Suspect credibility of Nato strategy

Europe's peace marches and supporters of nuclear disarmament would be more credible and convincing if they simultaneously preached the strengthening of Nato's conventional forces.

General Rogers, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, once defined the present Nato strategy as a "delayed tripwire strategy". Theoretically Nato has had, for a number of years, a strategy of "flexible response". This would require Nato to be able to answer a Soviet attack at any level. But we actually lack that capability due to many weaknesses in NATO's manpower, ammunition as well as to the fading of our former qualitative superiority.

Today, Nato would hardly be able to resist a "second echelon" conventional attack without having to employ some tactical nuclear weapons.

At present the Soviet Union also enjoys superiority in the field of theatre nuclear weapons. That should, however, be taken care of either by the construction and deployment of Nato's new TNF weapons, the crisis and Proliferation 2 missiles, or by a successful negotiation reducing, possibly even to zero level, Soviet and Western weapons of that kind.

I believe that, in spite of the efforts of the peace marchers and unilateralists (if their views were to prevail, there would be no chance of cancelling Soviet superiority), the key countries in Europe — Italy, Germany and Britain — will not abandon their plans to acquire the new weapons. By so doing, they will create the necessary precondition for a serious attempt to bring under control these terrifying weapons.

But even if that happens, there would remain a dangerous imbalance, on the West's disadvantage, on the central front. Indeed, NATO's inferiority would become even more glaring once the problem of TNF were out of the way.

We know everything about NATO's "conventional" inferiority. To compensate for that we have always counted upon our relative superiority in tactical nuclear weapons as well as in the global strategic power relation. We have now lost that superiority.

The new "Euromissiles" would have represented, as a matter of fact, an additional American strategic option against the Soviet Union, on top of America's strategic triad. (I quote from Gregory Trevorton's recent Adelphi paper on "Nuclear Weapons in Europe".)

It may still be worth doing

without them, in order to eliminate or reduce the number of Soviet SS20s; but America's possibly temporary relative inferiority in strategic weapons would then be more manifest to all.

But even in the field of tactical nuclear weapons, as shown by the above quoted paper, the modernization of Soviet shorter-range nuclear weapons (tactical missiles, nuclear-capable artillery and nuclear-capable fighters and medium bombers), has former superiority.

In Gregory Trevorton's conclusion, this new situation "may give rise to the possibility that Nato would either be deterred from using tactical nuclear weapons in a losing conventional conflict, or that Nato's existing nuclear delivery systems would be destroyed before they could be used".

Another quite new Adelphi paper by Desmond Ball (a piece of superb research, with the title: "Can Nuclear War Be Controlled?"), shows convincingly that it is not reasonable to expect that control can be kept and that all-out nuclear war can be prevented, once strategic weapons are used (except, perhaps, for "small, carefully conducted attacks for demonstration purposes").

But even the use of tactical weapons on Europe's central front, which would produce fatalities ranging from two to one hundred million, would give rise to an almost uncontrollable and unthinkable situation.

In such circumstances, NATO's present "delayed tripwire strategy" may come to lack the minimal necessary credibility.

So, even if it remains true, as "military balance" of the Institute of Strategic Studies keeps on saying year after year, that "the overall east-west balance of power is still such as to make military aggression appear unattractive" since "the consequences for an attacker would be incalculable" the awareness that a relative imbalance exists between nuclear psychological and political consequences at the time of a confrontation between east and west.

This could increase the ever-existing danger of a miscalculation leading to nuclear war. In conclusion: if a certain degree of control must be kept on nuclear weapons, so as not to foreclose the chance for future generations to achieve disarmament, we must maintain a clear, undeniable balance of forces in all fields, starting with conventional forces. This is the only rational though costly answer to the present upsurge of nuclear fears in Western Europe.

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Hopes fade for neutral independent Cambodia

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, Nov 4

A split in the Khmer Peoples National Liberation Front (KNLF) may have removed the last, slim chance of a neutral, independent Cambodia emerging.

Cambodians in Bangkok associated with the non-Communist front said Mr Son Sann, the leader, had decided, after disagreements with senior colleagues, to withdraw from attempts to form a coalition with the Khmer Rouge (the former Communist government) and forces of Prince Sihanouk, former head of state.

The front would continue to participate, but without Mr Sann, who is regarded as the only man fit to lead an independent Cambodia, it will have little authority or support.

The question of collaboration with the Khmer Rouge, which is accused of mass killings after its victory in 1975, caused the split. Mr Sann had insisted that he would allow the Khmer Rouge only a limited role in any coalition government he headed and would not tolerate Mr Pol Pot, Mr Ieng Sary, or other disgraced Khmer Rouge weapons and supplies.

Foreign diplomats say the government of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) are warning the Khmer Rouge that they will withdraw political support if it does not make concessions to the KNLF.

Mr Sann appears to be willing to accept Mr Khieu Samphan, President and Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea, who was made chief of government in succession to Pol Pot in an effort to improve the regime's image.

Mr Sann said the front would lose support if it conceded any more to the Khmer Rouge. He said some people already in the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) are warning the Khmer Rouge that they will withdraw political support if it does not make concessions to the KNLF.

The Khmer Rouge show no readiness to surrender their dominant position. They have five times as many soldiers as the non-Communists, better weapons and supplies.

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25 years of television in Spain

Spectre of censorship haunts celebrations

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid, Nov 4

Spain's state television is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, but the spectre of a relapse into the mediocrity and censorship of the Franco era is haunting the party.

The man who has no doubt about the risks is Señor Fernando Castedo, the former director-general of Spanish State Radio and Television (RTVE). He was forced to resign by Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, on the eve of the anniversary, despite being a member of his own Centre Democratic Party (UCD).

Since then others have mocked the celebrations, and Mingote, one of this country's best cartoonists, has caught the mood now prevailing in the state broadcasting system. In *ABC*, the Madrid conservative daily, he depicts a man carrying a huge pair of scissors across his shoulders and proudly telling his friend: "It seems my name is now being canvassed for a top job at RTVE".

The censors appear to have already been wielded, with one of the first victims a serialised version of D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*.

"My departure represents a change of objectives. Television can be an instrument of the state but never of a party or a government and the director-general should shield the professionals running the programmes from the government's interference," Señor Castedo told me.

Señor Castedo, who is going back to his law practice, has been replaced by Señor Carlos Robles Piquer, a veteran diplomat who was director of information and of popular culture at the Franco era. He is also a brother-in-law of Señor Manuel Fraga, a former Franco minister who now leads the conservative Democratic Coalition. He has faced an icy reception from the best professionals at RTVE who do not want to see the clock put back.

Señor Castedo had to be pushed out at a midnight meeting in the Prime Minister's office because the state broadcasting statute under

which he was appointed last January lays down that the director-general enjoys office for a four-year period. He was appointed by Señor Adolfo Suárez, the former prime minister, with the approval of both the ruling party and the opposition Socialists, to inaugurate a new era of television and radio free from daily government interference.

But Spain's broadcasting statute, now at risk, differs in two important respects from practice at the BBC. The director-general is a political figure and "in the absence of a government is nominated by the various parties according to their strength in parliament."

But if the Spanish system is to work, the politicians have to understand the true nature of the media and respect the man they put in the hot seat as director-general. Nine months in that seat seem to have convinced Señor Castedo that three basic changes are essential if Spain's new democracy is to get the television it deserves.

The country's politicians have to grasp the force of the confession made by former President Giscard d'Estaing of France on a recent visit to Madrid. One of the principal factors of his defeat last May, he said, was French government-run television.

"I believe experience shows the television which most favours the establishment is a state television as objective as possible, organized to highlight a government's achievements, it only produces a boomerang effect with public opinion," Señor Castedo said.

The average Spanish father prefers a television which does not raise individual or social problems for him with his family," he went on, for this gave the politicians their opportunity to domesticate the box in the name of public morality and high principle. Ordinary Spaniards must learn to abandon their "treacherous paternalism" and the hypocrisy "which seems a part of our education".

He also argued that greater professionalism in the media must accompany the politicians' restraint.

EEC may freeze aid to Turkey

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Nov 4

Turkey risks having loans and aid worth a total of £290m blocked or frozen by the European Commission as a result of the four-month prison sentence passed by an Ankara court martial on Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister.

Today, Mr Cemal Keskin, the Turkish Ambassador to the European Community, was called in by Signor Lorenzo Natali, the Commission's vice-president responsible for the Mediterranean countries.

The ambassador was told that the sentence had aroused serious doubt within the Commission about whether Turkey was now really going through with a promised process of return to a pluralist parliamentary democracy. The European Community, the ambassador was told, attached great importance to this commitment.

Confronted with the way in which the military regime in Turkey was treating politicians listed EEC foreign ministers to issue a statement a year ago saying how worried they were about developments in the country. The ministers, however, agreed to accept the assurances then being given by the military authorities that the democratic institutions would be quickly re-established and that civil rights would be respected. On this basis, they agreed to continue cooperation with Turkey.

These hopes of a year ago have yet to be realized. The Commission has been increasingly concerned about the lack of progress towards democracy in Turkey, especially as the country wants to become a full member of the European Community.

A speech made last month by General Kenan Evren, the military head of state, suggesting the way forward to democracy, was viewed in Brussels as having fine sentiments but little real commitment.

The four-month sentence on Mr Ecevit for making political statements, comes at a time when the Community is scheduled to agree a fourth financial protocol with Turkey worth a total of £290m.

How South Africa helps Lesotho tap its resources

From Michael Hornsby, Maseru, Nov 4

Despite the apparent deterioration in their political relations, South Africa and Lesotho are quietly proceeding with a joint water management scheme that could become one of the biggest and most ambitious regional development projects in Africa.

It is a striking example of how relations between white-ruled South Africa and its black neighbours, however publicly hostile, often conceal a private acceptance of the reality of their economic interdependence.

The project, known as the Highland Water Scheme, would divert water for sale to South Africa from the upper Malibamatso and Orange rivers, which rise in Lesotho, and at the same time generate sufficient hydro-electric power to meet the tiny kingdom's own energy needs.

A diamond mine, operated by De Beers of South Africa, was opened in the northern mountains in 1977, but the portion of the deposits recoverable on economic terms will be exhausted within the next 10 years. Tourism is still in its infancy and unlikely to expand fast.

This leaves water as the only untapped asset of real revenue-earning potential. The Highlands Water Scheme has been talked of for nearly 20 years, but hitherto has never come to anything because the South Africans were not prepared to pay a price for Lesotho's water that would have made the project viable. Now, it appears, the South Africans' attitude has changed.

According to informed sources here, the two countries have agreed to share equally the £6m cost of a two-year feasibility study of the project, starting in June 1982. The EEC has indicated will-

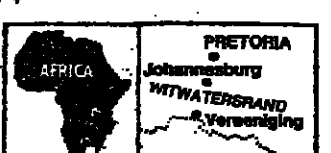
ingness to pay for Lesotho's share under the terms of the Lomé Convention, and is expected to give its formal approval later this year.

In addition, technical assistance worth some £250,000 will be provided by the United Nations through the World Bank, in the form of a team of engineers and financial analysts, to help Lesotho to carry out the study.

As now envisaged, the scheme would entail the building of five storage dams, a 60-mile diversion tunnel through the mountains, three power stations and a pumping station in northern Lesotho. Construction would be completed in four stages, ending in 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004.

About 35 cubic metres of water a second would be diverted northwards from the south-flowing Malibamatso and Orange rivers into the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area of South Africa, mainly for industrial use. South Africa would pay a royalty for each cubic metre exported on a costs-plus basis.

The scheme is politically sensitive since it will be of benefit to South Africa and enable the South Africans to meet their water needs into the next century more cheaply than by alternative methods. This could well provoke sharp criticism from other black African states.



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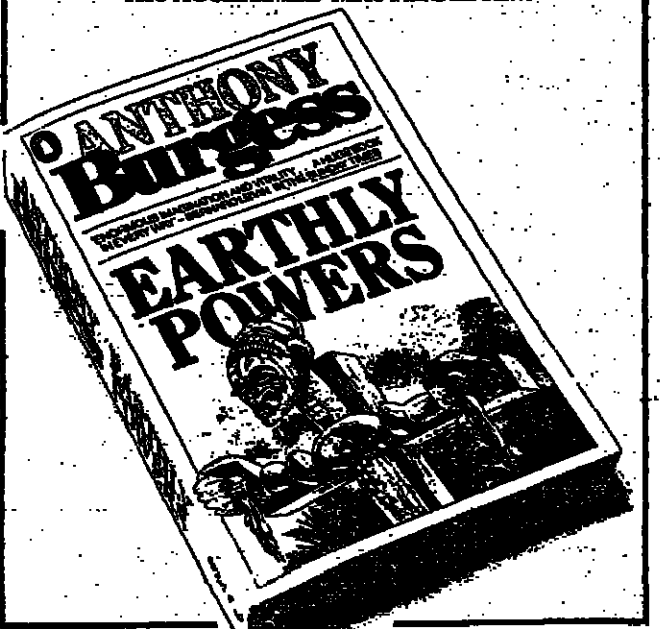
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Old men forget

Churchill's Indian Summer

The Conservative Government, 1951-55

By Anthony Seldon
(Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95)

Anthony Seldon's account of the Conservative Government of 1951-55 raises a historical question of much importance. Mr Seldon is engaged in setting up the 'British Oral Archive of Political and Administrative History', an archive consisting of interviews with influential figures in post-war British politics. When I made the grade and was interviewed, I insisted on reading into the record a stern and comprehensive disclaimer of the reliability of my recollection, having repeatedly experienced the manner in which events are altered in the actor's memory, without his knowledge and against his will. The period 1951-55 is one for which the official records are not yet available under the 'thirty-year rule' of 1968 — a rule incidentally to which I was opposed at the time of its introduction, and still remain opposed, because a public figure may well be actively and responsibly engaged in political life for over three decades. Mr Seldon, however, has (as the blurb puts it)

'circumvented the problem' by interviews as well as access to 'unpublished papers and diaries'.

The contribution of the interviews, sometimes (at the request of the person interviewed) anonymous, is considerable. For example, out of 37 sources cited for Chapter 9, Part 3, 19 are interviews. It occurred to me to make a minor, and not necessarily scientific, test. 'Enoch Powell' occurs in the index six times: four refer to impeccable statements of fact that I was employed in the Conservative Research Department before 1949, belonged to the One Nation Group and the 'Suez Group' in 1950-54 and was co-author of *Needs and Means* with Iain Macleod. The remaining two surprised me greatly. Harold Macmillan, 'in his early days at the Ministry (of Housing), held a monthly lunch to which he invited Nicholas, Enoch Powell and myself. We might be critical of his policy on the pretext that he wished to hear their views. They were naturally flattered at his courting of them, and did not suppress their views. As for his gesture was effectively defusing their political opposition'. How interesting. And the source? 'Interview with Lord Harnham Nichols'. I do not know how, but on monthly occasions my old

(and ennobled) friend was thus 'defused'; but I do know that throughout the period I was an elected officer of the Party's housing committee and agreed anyway with Macmillan's policies. The hunches, alas, have passed from my recollection.

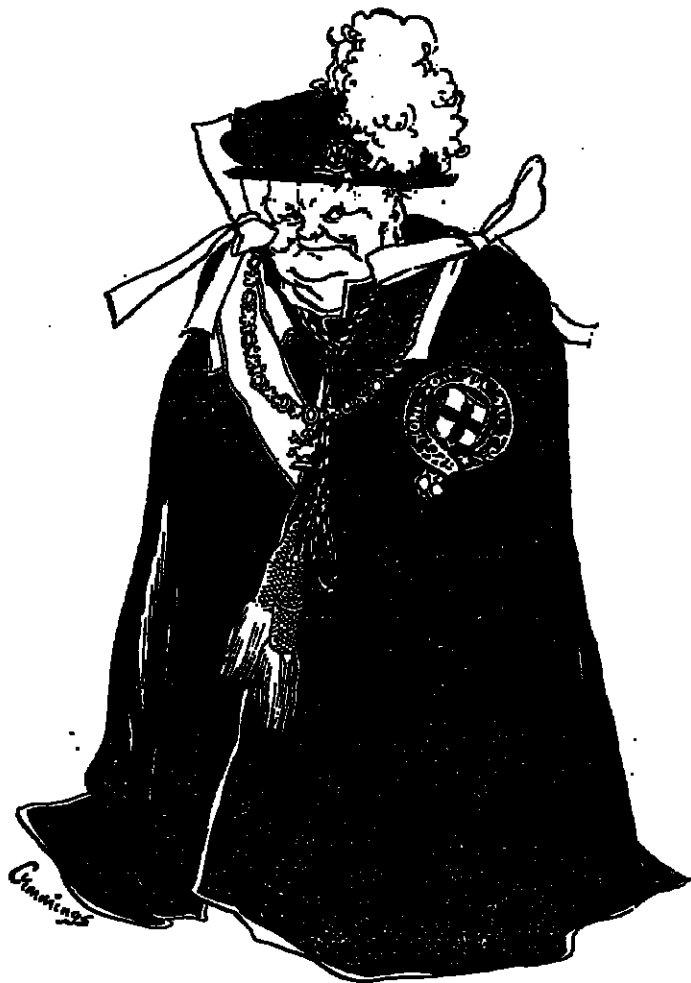
'William Deedes was (in 1954) a Whips' choice for the new Parliamentary Secretary (at Housing). Powell had been approached first but had turned it down'. The source? 'Interview with William Deedes'. It was characteristically self-effacing of my old friend to award himself the derogatory description of 'Whips' choice', but in fact he was chosen by the House of Commons in 1952 of an Under-Secretaryship at the Housing Office (which Sir John Colville, if interviewed, would for certain reasons confirm) into a non-existent office and a non-existent refusal two years later.

All this, no doubt, is small beer; but it is a worrying specimen of the reliability and quality of the interviews which have contributed so largely to the content of the book. It is so when the authority for the statement that 'throughout 1951-55 [Eden] was not able to build up a body of support among those men primarily concerned in economic and social issues' turns out to be

Interview with Julian Amery

With or without the opening of public records, much political history must always depend on the fallible or falsifiable statements of individuals in letters, diaries and (worst of all) memoirs; but these at least are sources which can be compared, contrasted and analysed in the eventual light of day. For all their separate unreliability, work based on them has an integrity which the product of private interviews will lack.

All that said, I do not dissent from Mr Seldon's verdict that Churchill's ministry of 1951-55 can be shown to compare favourably in its political and administrative output, yes, and in its correspondence with the intentions and expectations of those who voted it into office, with any subsequent slab of government of equal length. It had one feature distinguishing it from its successors which Mr Seldon implies but nowhere directly states. Never again did a ministry contain so many men who, if they had decided to leave it, would have walked at least as large outside as inside office. It was the last Cabinet which in this quality still belonged to the parliamentary past of the gentleman and not yet to the parliamentary future of the paid careerists.



Churchill by Michael Cummings from *Masters of Caricature* by William Feaver (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15)

The keys to the kingdom

The House of Saud

By David Holden & Richard Johns

(Sidgwick & Jackson, £9.95)

The Kingdom

By Robert Lacey

(Hutchinson, £9.95)

It never rains but it pours. For years the hundreds of thousands of Westerners who have to deal, in one capacity or other, with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have had to turn to up-to-date book giving them an adequate general introduction to that most baffling of countries. Even officials of the British Embassy in Jeddah were reduced to recommending, with suitable apologies, *A House Built on Sand* by Helen Lackner — a Marxist hatchet-job compiled, with some care, from secondary sources. Now at last there come not one but two blockbusters (569 and 631 pp. respectively) from what might be called mainstream British authors, while a third, American version by Peter Iseman is known to be in an advanced stage of preparation. David Holden, who was

killed in 1977 after completing only ten out of twenty-six chapters, was a gifted writer and also a long-respected specialist in Arab affairs; Richard Johns, who wrote most of *The House of Saud* inherits Holden's mantle in the latter rather than the former respect. Robert Lacey, by contrast, is a highly successful writer whose earlier work had not touched the Middle East at all. He is, as the dustjacket firmly reminds us, 'author of *Majesty*'.

It was, presumably, as a sensitive chronicler of royalty that Lacey was recommended to King Khalid — for his, though not an officially sponsored portrait of the kingdom, was intended as an authoritative one. But sensitive to satire-hardened Brenda and Keith can still affront the majesty of the House of Saud as an intolerable invasion of family privacy. The Saudi Ministry of Information, Lacey records, 'has requested changes to his manuscript. I feel unable to make: at the time of writing, it does not seem likely that this book will be permitted to enter the Kingdom.' At least, it will not be on public sale there. It will

enter the kingdom all right and no one is likely to be thrown into jail for merely possessing a copy. But Lacey himself may have some difficulty getting another visa.

One hopes that Richard Johns will not have that trouble, since he, as a journalist, must need to visit Saudi Arabia from time to time. On the face of it, his book should be the more offensive of the two: it takes a more iconoclastic view of the royal family, and of the kingdom's future. But he has not sought intimacy with princes, nor tried to present his work as an insider's view. He may perhaps escape the taint of privacy breached and hospitality abused which Lacey, like his predecessor Linda Blandford, author of *Oil Sheikhs* — inevitably if perhaps unintentionally incurs.

Most Western readers will find Lacey the more entertaining read of the two, amply stocked with personal anecdotes, most of it with the sources carefully identified, (which does not automatically mean true). They will find less detail on many events of the 1960s and 70s than in Johns, but a surprising amount of the substance, and on some

episodes the anecdotes help make a complex story more intelligible, or even enable one to correct some of Johns' historical judgments. It is hard, for instance, after reading Lacey, to accept without reservation Johns' statement that the Egyptian Syrian attack on Israel in October, 1973 'came as a surprise and a shock for the Saudi royal court'. It would be wrong to write off Lacey's book as merely 'colourful'. A great deal of serious research has gone into it.

On the other hand, many readers will tire of Lacey's unremitting search for literary effect, and those who settle for him only will miss one of the best things: the chapter on the Mecca insurrection of 1979 contributed to Johns' book by his colleague on the *Financial Times*, James Buchanan. But on the whole the similarity between the two is more striking than the difference. Both have adopted a chronological structure, where one might have hoped for an isolation of certain key themes in modern Saudi society; and both conclude by hedging their bets on the future.

Edward Mortimer

Nothing like a Dame or two

Flora

By Kenneth Barrow

(Heinemann, £12.50)

If the stage were the world (and enough people have told us that the world is a stage) I think Flora Robson would be no mere Dame, but a saint. Among all the minutiae of a lifetime's productions her goodness and magnanimity come over brightly and without a trace of sickness. And, unlike some actors who move us to tears, she drew her sympathy with characters from a human understanding that she showed us unfailingly on and off the stage. (It was not general: a colleague in *For Services Rendered* scotched a suggestion with 'Why should I do that to help you?'). She first stepped on to a West End stage little more than 70 years ago; at times this seems pre-history. Her loving and fiercely determined Scots father found his friends disgusted at her choice of profession; and there are splendid horror stories of Ben Greer's company... ('Dyer know Ariel?... That's a pity, yer playing it tomorrow night.'). If miracles are a saint's essential attribute, there have

been plenty of those. It is chastening to discover how much of her career was spent in indifferent plays and films, and also a long-respected specialist in Arab affairs; Richard Johns, who wrote most of *The House of Saud* inherits Holden's mantle in the latter rather than the former respect. Robert Lacey, by contrast, is a highly successful writer whose earlier work had not touched the Middle East at all. He is, as the dustjacket firmly reminds us, 'author of *Majesty*'.

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Edith Sitwell

By Geoffrey Elborn

(Sheldon Press, £10)

It's a pity that two biographies of Dame Edith Sitwell, both excellent but in different ways, should have appeared right on top of one another. Elborn's book is warm and anecdotal. Dame Edith's sharp tongue is allowed to wag freely, and this makes for a good read. She could be outrageous, malicious, witty, generously affectionate, and litigious; she was tragically unhappy in love, and easily taken in — but always through everything a *grande dame* with a majestic and intimidating personality. The scene is set during one of her many poetry readings and leave her fluting away unperturbed. And if, in her later time when her voice carried less well, an audience should grow restive, she never panicked but gave the musicians a wiggling instead. 'I know how to hold my own... There are always people who have something to complain about. Do you think, after all the reciting I have done that I

don't know my onions?' But she didn't really know how to hold her own. Underneath the make-up and the fantastic get-up there was someone who had been irreparably wounded by life and who tended always to be far too trustful of people — of the painter Echelitzew who broke her heart and kept on sponging on her, of Dylan Thomas who was drunk and then wrote her hollow, boozy letters in order to creep back into favour.

Her early work in poetry is the stuff which keeps its value, but Elborn attempts himself no sustained appraisal of her writing. He lets others give judgment, hostile or enthusiastic, and this is exactly right for the manner of book he is writing. Above all Dame Edith is plenty of room to speak up for herself. Leave her to her poetry, and when they met he entertained her on Cydrax which may account for the *de haut-en-bas* attitude she adopted towards the guru. 'Mr Leavis is small and harassed-looking and does coaching.'

David Williams

Fiction

Mission

By Patrick Tilley

(Michael Joseph, £7.95, £4.95)

Lost and Found

By Julian Gloag

(Secker & Warburg, £5.95)

Ladies and gentlemen — I mean, dearly beloved brethren — meet our preacher for today. He is Patrick Tilley, author of *Mission*, a title sufficient to warn you that it's time to be up and doing, and his text, I think I can safely affirm, will have even the most cynical among you sitting up with a jolt in your pews.

For Mr Tilley posits a scene in which Jesus of Nazareth — he calls him The Man most of the time, just for novelty — appears in New York to a couple called Leo and Miriam. Leo is a lawyer, sharp, Jewish, and full of chutzpah. Miriam, his girl friend, is a doctor and a lapsed Catholic. My friends, if The Man suddenly turned up in your hospital, apparently dead and certainly badly beaten up, and later, in your apartment, drank six glasses of your wine while leaving the bottle still full, what would you do? I suggest it's a good question.

Mr Tilley's answer makes a very long sermon — 396 pages, in fact. By the end we have travelled through the realms of science fiction and spacehip, called on Carlos Castaneda, not to mention Rudolph Steiner, stopped off in Glastonbury (energy source, of course), had the relevant parts of the Bible written for us and watched St Paul and the Vatican being thumped once again.

There are times when the esoteric tale wags the dog — whole chunks where the book turns from novel into tract. But Mr Tilley is a real original and when writing at his best is brilliant — a master of the short, taut, gruesomely exciting scene and of the cunningly planted twist.

A year or two back, and several years after he had published his moving novel, *Our Mother's House*, a very funny thing happened to Julian Gloag. A novel by a younger writer, Ian McEwan, appeared with — unwittingly — a remarkably similar plot. Why that coincidence came back to me as I read Mr Gloag's new book, *Lost and Found*, I would rather not say. All I hope is that a little deliberate mystification will send readers to the novel for themselves, for it is a magnificent piece of work, intense in feeling, economical in construction, above all, both

through its characterizations and its plot, a most skilful evocation of a period already the subject of much excellent writing — life in France during the Second World War. Paul Molphey, country schoolteacher, has lost most things he truly values — his wife, his daughters, even the chance of publishing his book. Torn between rival loyalties to his grandfather, a stubborn admirer of Pétain, and his father, a Resistance hero, he seems the archetypal loser.

There will, I hope, be a reaction before too long against the over-complicated use of the flashback and cross-cutting technique, but in Mr Gloag's hands the device is justified. The effect is to bring out the maturing of a man's character, from weakness to wise endurance, against the background of his life in the isolation of a French village, with all its cruelties, bigotries and lusts.

Genetic engineering — that explosive theme of our time — is the subject of Maureen Duffy's *Gen* (Secker & Warburg, £5.95). Cor, or Gordon, is the offspring of a female gorilla successfully fertilized by an ambitious and unpleasant scientist with human semen. The scene is set some years into the future, when society is polarized between the upper classes and the 'noms', nobody wants to live in cities any more, and you don't exist if your records are not in the data bank.

Despite a strong start and some thought-provoking reflections, this book disappoints through — of all things — amiability. Gor is much favoured by the chances of his genes. His friends and helpers come up trumps. So why worry? I think the future could hold nastier surprises than Miss Duffy offers us here.

Rivers Scott

Paperbacks on the Arts Page, page 15: Romantic novels, pornography, and Rose Macaulay.

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Science fiction

The Golden Age of Science Fiction

Selected and introduced by Kingsley Amis

(Hutchinson, £6.95)

Kingsley Amis, the critical godfather of the genre, here puts a loaded argument to SF's head and presses the trigger of his dismay. *Et tu, Brute?* In presenting an anthology of memorable short stories, whose title speaks for their virginal introduction blasts off in a direction that tells more of his condition than that of science fiction. The author of the wonderful *New Maps Of Hell* feels himself unable to define land masses that have grown out of his reach. 'Science fiction has come from Chaucer to Piranesi's *Woke* in less than fifty years, within the lifetime of plenty of people who are still trying to read it.' And, again: 'Now you can take it anywhere and it is not worth taking.'

When a man of such regard pronounces thus, one speaks softly and carries a big

rebuttal in disagreeing with him. Mr Amis aligns SF along with jazz as having become too self-aware: as ingrown as a toe-nail, perhaps? He is against the class-room approach. But the New Wave was something lived through — and survived. Something as vital as SF can outlast even the kind of over-intellectualizing that it underwent. Herbert Le Guin, Watson, Ballard — just a few of the names to illuminate our path.

Mr Amis's choice of stories to anthologize is of that early post-war period, when pulp was solidifying into new forms. His lamentation now seems to be that SF has grown up, and can no longer be patted on its many heads. Critics are lucky enough to be able to rationalize an addiction and that Kingsley Amis feels himself no longer a junkie is a matter for regret. 'Science fiction has lost its innocence, a quality notoriously hard to recapture.' Perhaps it is the innocence of the beholder that we're really talking about. Deathhunter, by Ian Watson (Gollancz, £5.95). Weird, wonderful departure for Mr Watson, who has turned a future world in which death is ritually an honourably accepted. Then comes the warning that Death itself is a predatory creature-reality, hawk-

like, attracted by a chemical agent released by the body.

Project Pope, by Clifford D. Simak (Sidgwick & Jackson, £7.95). The Pope as ultimate computer. Starting idea played more for effect than insight, but Mr Simak is one of those veterans who really know how to tell a story.

The Claw Of The Conductor, by Gene Wolfe (Sidgwick & Jackson, £7.95). Being the second volume in a quest begun with *The Shadow Of The Torturer*, as the exiled Severian continues his journey to the distant city of Thera, high in the mountains of the Commonwealth. Second impressions reinforce the first: a progress which is a unique fulfilment of our need to marvel.

Shakehole, by R. W. MacNeil-worth (Hale, £6.25). Britain is on the brink of chaos and a returning Marcus searches for the girl whom he thinks can restore order. Some déjà-vu concepts, but it has a surprising poignancy and power.

Tom Hutchinson

The correct title of Harry J. Greenwald's book, reviewed last month is *Chinaman's Choice* (Hale, £5.25).



TONI MORRISON Tar Baby

'Toni Morrison is a stunning writer.' *The Times*

'... mercurial imagination and brilliantly elegant prose.' *Guardian*

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CHATTO & WINDUS

Namibia: why Western hesitation is playing into Moscow's hands

by Edward Heath

The need to find a way of bringing Namibia independence has become one of the most important tasks for the foreign policy of the West.

In black African eyes it is an acid test of our opposition to apartheid. Many black African leaders agree privately that economic and other sanctions against South Africa are of doubtful value or even counter-productive in their effects on black political rights. Whatever else we do they will not accept that we are genuinely committed to the removal of apartheid from Africa if we continue to dither or prevaricate over this key issue.

Namibia, a huge country about four times the size of Britain but with only just over one million inhabitants, has been the subject of international attention since 1946, when the South African government refused to give up its mandate to administer it granted by the League of Nations in 1919.

The persistence of the Namibian problem over the last 35 years is now endangering the stability of the entire Southern African region. It is the cause of a bitter war between South Africa and the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), which is fighting for the independence of the territory. As SWAPO is based largely in Angola, the Namibian issue is also a source of conflict between Angola and South Africa.

This in turn covers Luanda with all the legitimacy it needs within the Third World for the continuing presence of thousands of Cuban troops on Angolan soil. As a result it provides the Soviet Union with an entrée into Southern Africa which has become more valuable to it than ever since the settlement in Zimbabwe.

The longer a settlement in Namibia is delayed the greater the danger that SWAPO will be pushed into the hands of the Soviet Union, its principal source of economic and military assistance, and the only country that stands to gain from the West's current hesitation. This would make a settlement more difficult to achieve, not only because South Africa would be increasingly able to use the Soviet threat as an alibi for obstructing the process of peace-making but also because Moscow itself may not want a settlement — especially a settlement of western penance. It may suit its purposes very well to see the West alienated more and more from black Africa and increasingly incapable of achieving the diplomatic aims it has set itself. I must add that both the Anglican and the Roman Catholic bishops and the Moderator of the nonconformist denominations, all of whom have close contacts with SWAPO in Angola, emphasized to me that their members came largely from the Ovambo tribe which has a deeply religious Christian background. They considered that if



Cuban troops in Angola: a Namibian settlement would put pressure on Fidel Castro to withdraw them

returned to power in free elections their Christianity would exclude the adoption of Marxist and uncritically pro-Soviet policies. Namibia is strategically very important. Not only does it supply about 50 per cent of Britain's consumption of uranium for nuclear power and 18 per cent of the West's total production of that essential mineral, but it borders four countries besides Angola which are of key importance to stability on the African continent: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Since 1977, five western powers — the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada — have worked as an informal "contact" group to break the deadlock over Namibia. Considerable progress has been made, but despite the more hopeful recent public statements of the South African Government, which appear to indicate that it is now ready to accept a settlement if Pretoria's concerns and those of the internal parties in Windhoek can be satisfied, independence still appears to be some way off. On a recent visit to South Africa and Namibia it became clearer to me that the reasons for the continuing absence of a settlement were not confined to obstinacy and backtracking on the part of Pretoria.

I was struck by the contrast between the determination of most of the internally-based parties to achieve independence and their failure to cooperate in achieving that aim. This paradox was all the more striking for the fact that a large number of these parties, grouped within the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) and a broad centre Group, had far from incompatible visions of what the aims of a settlement should be and how they might be achieved.

It soon emerged that the basic reason for this was that the centrist leaders in Namibia outside the DTA

feared that cooperation with it would be an electoral liability for them and their parties. There are three main reasons for this.

The first is Namibia's deteriorating economy. Agricultural production, in which over half the population of Namibia is engaged, has suffered severely because of the worst drought in 50 years; the uranium industry is in trouble because of the depressed state of the world commodity market; and the fishing industry has been damaged by prolonged over-fishing in the waters off Walvis Bay by overseas countries such as Spain, Poland and the Soviet Union.

Although none of these factors can reasonably be attributed to the DTA's record in government, the leadership is associated in the mind of the electorate with the deterioration in these sectors of the economy.

The second, and more intractable, reason for the reluctance of other moderate parties to cooperate with the DTA is that the Alliance is seen by a great part of the non-white population as the lackey of Pretoria. It is difficult to envisage how this perception can change. Not only was the DTA born out of the Turnhalle Conference, sponsored by South Africa for two years from September, 1975, it is inevitably vulnerable to South African leverage as a result of Namibia's considerable economic dependence on Pretoria and the latter's strong military presence in Namibia.

Nevertheless, the DTA is far from being a puppet of Pretoria, and tension between the two has characterized their relationship from the outset. Indeed, the DTA is a multi-party party, led by a man — Dirk Mudge — who broke away from the South West African National Party, and who is therefore regarded by many in South Africa's ruling National Party as a renegade and a traitor. In particu-

lar, Mudge is extremely wary of any kind of "internal settlement" constructed independently of the international community. Such a settlement would not only perpetuate and even deepen Namibia's dependence on South Africa; it would also do nothing to stop the fighting on her northern borders.

Third, the personal ambitions of the leaders of the 40-odd political parties thought to exist in Namibia have prevented even those parties whose views coincide closely from cooperating to achieve their common purposes. This inevitably plays into the hands of the extremists on both right and left.

It points to the next main problem which has handicapped the search for Namibian independence: the absence of any external power which is acceptable to all sides and possesses the necessary leverage to force them to compromise with one another. Britain's ability to play such a role in Zimbabwe was crucial to the success of the negotiations at Lancaster House. The western contact group, for all its prestige, lacks the legal responsibility for Namibia without which it has proved impossible to speed up the pace of negotiations.

Finally, the western contact group has been right to make it clear that it does not seek to make the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola a condition for the pursuit of a settlement in Namibia. As I explained earlier an internationally-recognized settlement to the Namibian problem is in its own right of vital interest to the West. To make it conditional on anything else would be to create an unnecessary and potentially dangerous hostage to fortune. It would strengthen the hand of the hardliners in both Pretoria and Windhoek by giving greater weight to their arguments for keeping Namibia under South African rule in order to defend her against Angola, and it would run the risk of playing directly into Soviet hands.

On the other hand an implicit link does exist between the objectives of independence for Namibia and withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The attainment of the former would render the continuing presence of the Cubans in Angola far less acceptable in the eyes of world opinion and thus far more difficult for Luanda to sustain. But the converse is also true: if Namibia is not soon brought to independence and if brutal South African attacks on Angola persist, there is the danger that these very Cuban troops may become drawn increasingly into the conflict.

This is a "link" which western policy must certainly try to avert — for the Soviet Union is the only country which would really stand to gain from it.

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Ronald Butt

Can Crosby forget the Williams record?



Mrs Williams: schools policy could stand against her abolish the assisted places.

Despite opinion poll indications that the SDP/Liberal Alliance will take Crosby from the Conservatives in the coming by-election, the seat might well resist the political charms of Mrs Shirley Williams and the allure of the "new" politics. She may find that local constituency characteristics are rather less on her side than she had supposed when she precipitately stalked her claim to the candidature without even a by-your-leave to her rather disconcerted Liberal allies.

Among both Social Democrats and Conservatives, there is little doubt that what especially persuaded Mrs Williams to bid for Crosby was the fact that it is a quite heavily Roman Catholic seat (perhaps 25 per cent of the voters) and she is, of course, a Roman Catholic.

The Roman Catholic element in this largely middle-class constituency is not however, simply derived from the Liverpool-Irish connexion — important though that is in the working-class margin of the constituency, where the Catholic vote has traditionally inclined to Labour. Whether Labour's Bentine candidate will lose much of this vote to Mrs Williams is anyone's guess.

Elsewhere in the constituency, however, much of the Roman Catholic vote is of the kind that descends directly from pre-reformation Catholicism, which survived more strongly in that part of England than elsewhere. To this section of the electorate, Mrs Williams's appeal (as to many others in Crosby who might be tempted to vote for her to teach Mrs Thatcher's lesson) might be counteracted by her ministerial and political record.

It was under Mrs Williams's tenure of the Department of Education that three prominent schools in the area, St Mary's (Catholic) and two Merchant Taylors' schools (one for boys, one for girls) were deprived of direct grant status. Many families in the area have always been proud of their scholasticism and have relied on them (and on other direct grant schools outside the constituency) to provide a high quality academic education cheaply.

Mrs Williams forced them to become independent, to survive. Each new takes 25 to 30 children from poor families under the Government's means-tested assisted places scheme. However, not content with having obliged a large number of other local families to pay much more expensively for their children, at these schools than they would have done in direct grant days, Mrs Williams and her party now threaten to

What is more, she does not disguise her own personal wish to outlaw independent schools altogether (though this is not, of course, endorsed by the Social Democrats as a party). This hardly makes her good news to the local supporters of these and the other independent schools in the area.

Not least, she is not seen as a very convincing friend of the independence of church schools since in office she had proposed giving local authorities over-riding powers over admissions to them. Still, this by-election will be a close-run thing whatever the outcome, and the Alliance will probably achieve a good result, pushing Labour badly into third place, as it did at Croydon, and adding momentum to the Alliance bandwagon. If it is to secure a lasting place in the British political spectrum, the Alliance must then move steadily towards the position now held by Labour as the dominant party of the left of centre.

The SDP's greatest danger is, of course, that it should hold the balance in a hung parliament after the next election, it will be driven to form a coalition with the Tories which could (as happened with the Liberal Unionists) end in its absorption by the Conservatives.

Dr David Owen recently made some predictions about what the Alliance would do in such circumstances that are ominous for the constitution. Travelling on a train between SDP conferences, he told the *Sunday Telegraph* that if the party held the balance of power it would give an ultimatum to the Queen, making the introduction of proportional representation (and the holding of the next election under PR) the key condition for forming a government with whichever was the largest political party in Parliament.

The Alliance, he was reported as saying, would demand the dropping of Mrs Thatcher or Mr Foot, as the case might be, from the leadership of whichever party the Alliance was pleased to put into power, but the essential condition of allowing a government to be formed at all would be a promise that the Queen would not grant a dissolution until electoral reform was law. It seems that Dr Owen used this word "ultimatum" several times.

This is a threat of quite extraordinary arrogance, which is also downright unconstitutional. It is not simply a matter of the delicate question of the royal prerogative or of resolving Queen in political controversy in such a way as to risk damaging the very real discretion of the Crown to act impartially as negotiator or

umpire of last resort in a constitutional crisis.

Dr Owen's threat is also a breach of the fundamental principle of our constitution that the Queen's government must be carried on, and that the duty of parties, and of individuals acting together in the House of Commons is to see that it can be carried on. They do this when an overall majority for a single party is lacking, either by creating a majority for a coalition or by tolerating a minority government (usually by the largest single party) for the time being.

Such a government can be brought down if it acts unacceptably to the majority but it must be given a fair crack of the whip within these constraints to give a new parliament at least some short life before the electors are asked to vote again. It is quite unreasonable for any one party (especially if it were the smallest) to put a pistol to the head of the Queen and the constitution by saying that no government can be allowed except on SDP terms.

If the SDP found it impossible in such circumstances to enter a coalition, its duty would be to allow the largest party to form a government and when that government had enjoyed a reasonable life (which might be six months but not six weeks) the Prime Minister would have the right to advise a dissolution and a new election to seek a new verdict from the people.

Dr Owen is rather given to overstating his case, and he will have to be careful that he does not prick his own balloon. The SDP enjoys much public goodwill because of its attitudes, and people are prepared to accept the idea of moderation until such time as the new party had been able to produce some firm policies, which is not yet the case. Last weekend, Dr Owen claimed not only that the Alliance is the "most powerful political force in the country" but that it is a "new party that has arisen to match the extraordinary political situation." There is, however, nothing new about the leading Social Democrats. They are old familiar faces who once tried and failed to make social democratic policies work from inside the Labour Party, and now try to make the same policies work in a new setting. It is hard to discern a "new" thought in anything they have said so far.

If Mrs Thatcher (or Mr Foot, if it comes to that) heads the largest party after the next election, and Dr Owen's ultimatum is delivered to the Queen, Mrs Thatcher (or Mr Foot) will have one simple answer: to accept the invitation to form a government and stay in office so long as the House of Commons does not bring it down. The other opposition party, Labour or Tory, should not connive at an immediate SDP vote of censure.

If, however, the Alliance does bring down the government almost immediately for lack of a PR bill, the Prime Minister, even after a fortnight, should seek to obtain a dissolution. The SDP could then see if it could afford the cost of another election in the hope of an outright majority.

What would be intolerable would be to allow the Alliance to make a monkey out of the constitution in order to contrive an electoral system designed to perpetuate the hegemony of the centre which would then have power to decide which of the other parties it would admit to a share of government.

If, of course, the Alliance were to get an overall majority itself, it would then be perfectly entitled to introduce proportional representation. It would be interesting to see whether, if it enjoyed a landslide victory, it would still want to.

How the crunch came for the compulsive crusader

You do not need a number to find Tony Smythe's rambling family house in Finsbury Park, you simply follow the dog in the window. They have been there for more than 25 years in support of one cause or another, and the latest, "Nuclear Power — No Thanks!" rests beside a CND symbol, testifying to the persistence of a pacifism which has put him in prison three times, once as a conscientious objector to military service and twice as a result of non-violent demonstrations.

Now at 43 one of Britain's most experienced pressure group organizers, Smythe has just created his own bombshell by resigning after eight years as director of the mental health charity, Mind, which has put him in the staff union. This could be written off as insignificant but in the voluntary service world it is an event of considerable importance for three reasons.

First, it reflects the considerable financial pressures felt by some voluntary organizations at a time when national policy is to encourage the volunteers to undertake more of the welfare responsibilities previously met by the state.

Mind ended its last financial year with a deficit of £50,000 after breaking even satisfactorily for three years. This year it may lose more than £100,000. This is not a result of reckless spending for it has been cutting back for 18 months. The problem is loss of income.

Nicholas Hinton, director of the National Council for Voluntary Organizations, confirms Tony Smythe's experience that while Exchequer grants have kept up with inflation, donations from the public are falling. Disaster appeals and one-offs such as the BBC's Blue Peter Christmas appeal are raising more money than ever before, but, says Hinton, "the losers are

the unpopular causes whose need is secure core income year in and year out. Mind is one of those."

Financial pressures inevitably create insecurity and insecurity brings out the worst in people, even those who work for charities. Mind's staff, convinced that some of their number would be casualties of further cuts, decided this week to withdraw their labour from some of the charity's work. Smythe argued they should wait until a review of options was carried out in December and said that unless they abandoned their stance he would resign. They wouldn't, he did.

"While I can understand the Mind staff's concern, such action by a union within a voluntary organization fills me with foreboding," says Nicholas Hinton. "There is a potential tragedy for voluntary organizations in the growth of union activity within them. They have al-

ways offered a flexibility and a spirit so different from the traditional inflexible structures existing in industry and in the bureaucracy, and in their management staff relationships have always been informal and strengthened by commitment to the cause."

It is, of course, a fact that for many years society exploited its volunteers by demanding that they not only give long hours and great energy to their work but also settle for low pay without security. No fair-minded person would deny the need for more progressive attitudes. Whether the union road is the one for workers in charities to take is another matter.

The third cause for concern is the removal from the mental health field of its most talented and seasoned campaigners just when he is needed most. Smythe came to Mind in 1973 from a success at the National Council for Civil Liberties where he

effectively promoted the whole concept of individual rights.

He had previously worked in pacifist movements and even at the NCCL was accustomed to being surrounded by younger radicals in jumpers and jeans. Many in the voluntary world wondered how he would adjust to the conservatism of the traditional middle class, middle-aged and grey-haired world.

He adjusted, surprisingly well and Mind's achievement over the past few years has been to overcome generations of prejudice towards the mentally ill and handicapped and gain acceptance for policies intended to enable them to live in the community instead of being locked up in outdated mental institutions.

Because he has promoted his causes while being self-effacing himself, Smythe has usually only made the headlines personally when attacked, as he was recently in the House of Commons by

William Van Straubenzee, who sought to argue that Smythe had communist sympathies and was manipulating Mind for sinister ends. In fact the campaigner has never belonged to a political party and in some respects is moderate to conservative in his approach.

In keeping with his pacifism is a belief in persuasion by argument and his present efforts are partly caused by his dislike of exerting authority. His image is of a radical because many of the causes he has advocated were ahead of their time and unwelcome to the authorities. Many are not taken for granted.

He is now a major figure in voluntary service and one Mind really cannot do without. It is to be hoped they will still attempt to achieve reconciliation.

Des Wilson

The author was the Director of Shelter from 1967 to 1971.

The official gaps in the MIS story

In the wake of the Blunt and Long saga I can reveal that a secret official wartime history of MIS does exist — but that it makes no mention of either man. I understand that the work was completed recently by Anthony Simkins, deputy director of MIS at the time of his retirement in 1971. Simkins's account has been seen by only a very limited circle of Cabinet Office officials and senior intelligence officers and is to be consigned to the archives.

Simkins was of course closely involved in the negotiations to give both Blunt and Long immunity. Apparently, he left them out of his account because, at the time, he did not know who would see his report and the existence of both spies was then top secret. It is surely ironical (to put it no higher) that the official and secret histories contain so many "gaps" when compared with the unofficial ones, like Nigel West's MIS: 1909-1945.

Numbers game

At 42 Professor John Kingman — who today takes over as chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council — is the youngest academic to be appointed to this most senior of administrative jobs in British science. He is also unique in being a mathematician and is in fact a perfect example of the adage that

brilliant mathematicians' bloom early.

He took his first degree at Pembroke, Cambridge, in 1960; he did research in Oxford, then back to Cambridge and, by the age of 26, was professor of mathematics at Sussex. At the age of 32 he had been made a Fellow of the Royal Society and had been awarded his present chair at Oxford.

Young and fit though he is, Professor Kingman will probably need all our sympathy in his new post. His predecessor, Sir Geoffrey Allen, during his five year stint, has had to oversee an era of stagnation in the council's spending of £150m a year to support the bulk of research in the natural sciences.

Times are likely to get even harder, with rumours circulating that since taking over the Department of Education and Science, Sir Keith Joseph is looking for cuts that include the "science vote" from which research money comes.

Tut - tut

The theft of treasures from the tombs of the Pharaohs has now got so bad that the Egyptian government is to seek assistance from Unesco in a bid to stamp out the illegal traffic. Grave robbers have even taken to removing precious wall paintings from burial chambers at Luxor.

These have included a relief from the 3,200-year-old temple of Pharaoh Amenhotep III and wall paintings from the last resting place of Hur-min, a royal scribe to

THE TIMES DIARY



The Indian tribes of British Columbia are coming to London in 10 days to supplement the Westminster lobby.

Canadian provincial governments which are opposed to Mr Pierre Trudeau's package for "bringing home" the Canadian constitution.

While talks between the provincial premier and Mr Trudeau continue in Ottawa with the object of finding a compromise, the native or original peoples of Canada seem determined to continue their protests.

If Mr Trudeau could achieve a "consensus", most MPs would breathe a sigh of relief and the Bill endorsing the Canadian package would go through without much opposition. But the Indians, the Eskimos and the Métis (half breeds) maintain that they will

still have a grievance. They claim that their rights laid down in treaties made with the original colonists are not properly safeguarded.

To attract attention the Indians from British Columbia intend to hold a "potlatch" ceremony at Central Hall, Westminster, on November 16.

In their advance notice to British MPs, who are all invited, they say: "Potlatch, which was banned in British Columbia for nearly 75 years... is an event rich in ceremony; ancestral songs and dances, oratory, and a giving-away of traditional objects to those they wish to honour."

At potlatch ceremonies, Indian chiefs used to give away most of their property to gain popularity and respect. The chiefs may not realize it but that could pose problems for British MPs. There are certain conventions about receiving benefits for political action.

one of the kings of the New Dynasty (1580-1085 BC).

The Egyptians are concerned that the relaxation in trading restrictions with the West after the October 1973 war have helped the thieves smuggle their plunder out of the country to be sold to unscrupulous museums in

America and Europe.

Dr Ibrahim Fawzi, cultural counsellor at the Egyptian Embassy in London, told me: "There is not a thorough system of maintenance so a relief may be taken without its absence being noticed for some time. It is easy then to get it out of the country."

One moment, Sir Arnold, I'll just ask you chairman to switch down his CB radio...

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from a seaside shop in Skegness exactly three years and three months ago.

The snail was accidentally knocked off his back and Bell's wife asked him to mend it.

"I put it on top of the fridge and blow me the little fellow crawled along the top and went down the side. He gave me a bit of a shock. I can tell you the knock must have wakened it up after all that time. It beats me how it lived so long with nothing to eat and never moving."

Bell, of Langley Mills, Notts, was so amazed that he put the creature in a paper bag overnight ready to take to his local pub the next day to show his pals. But the snail was so hungry after its marathon excursion that it munched through a good part of the paper bag. He gave it a slap up meal of brussels sprout leaves and took it to Nottingham's Trent Polytechnic for examination. An expert at the college, Dr Christopher Neil, said: "It is a white-lipped snail that lives on the seashore and browses on seaweed. It is definitely alive. I poked it and it came out of its shell."

John Lennon is to be the next subject for biographer Albert Goldman, whose decline-and-fall study of Elvis Presley is a U.S. best seller. Two American publishers, Morrow and Avon, are to pay about \$1m. for the book, despite the fact that they are not expecting revelations anywhere near as sordid as the drug dependency that Goldman attri-

butes to Presley. They have reached for their cheque books solely on his reputation and on the basis of a letter of intent from Goldman that contains 500 words of information except that he is not going to seek cooperation from the surviving Beatles, or from Yoko Ono.

Minna, who is due in London next month for the publication of *Elvis*, will do most of his research in America. He interviewed Lennon three or four times and was, in his agent's words, "hooked to the Maxam avant-garde that Yoko Ono inhabited before she met Lennon and in which she immersed him." He plans to spend at most six months, perhaps as little as two, researching Lennon's background in Britain.

What Bliss

The entrance to Sir Edward Elgar's birthplace, at Broadheath, Worcester, has been decorated, I understand, with the command

Phrase BOULTE the gate

in recognition of Sir Adrian's

doughty advocacy of the great

composer. This could be catching, as in "Ring" (Richard Wagner);

"Beware of the frog" (Lord

Grady); "Cave Carmen" (Georges

Bizet).

Count to four

This explains a lot in the latest

section of the *Soviet Military Review*

and Sport" includes "Training in

Grenade Throwing"

Peter Watson

هكذا من الأسفل

THE ARTS

Paperbacks

Marvellous Macaulay

They Were Defeated, by Rose Macaulay (Oxford, £2.95)

Anybody snobbish enough to look down his or her nose on historical fiction should dip their snout into this, Rose Macaulay's only historical novel, her own favourite among her books, and a forerunner of her masterpiece *The Towers of Trebizond*. He will not take it out again until he has finished it. That witty, learned, and enchanting lady was, as usual, in about the difficulty for a clever woman of being in love. It was a conflict she lived through in her life.

Rose did not make things easy for herself in this book. She did her considerable best to make use of her characters in conversation, and words, phrases, or idioms that were not demonstrably used at the time in which they lived. These years just before the Civil War, when some of her playmates' bookishness is speaking, I had to reach repeatedly for my OED. But the dialogue only once rings false, the brief appearance of a Highland laird who will not hand his wheesht, but makes his possession a wee bity mummertet.

The central action takes place at Cambridge, that nest of eagles and soaring birds from Cromwell and Milton to Herrick and Henry More. Rose makes no concessions. She does not translate the gobblets of Latin or the vernacular seventeenth-century letters. But she manages to make the furious political, ecclesiastical, and academic ferment of the period intelligible and credible. As always she is marvellously readable and lively. The romantic antiquarian of *Pleasure of Ruins* is, as you would expect, impeccable on the characters, architecture, and curriculum of Cambridge of the period.

Her irrepressible intellectual women with ambiguous, hermaphroditic names. Julian Conybeare (the maiden name of Dame Rose's mother) has a poet's head crammed with quotations. She is a darling. But why can't the young men and women talk together reasonably, of life and philosophy and books and such, as if they were of the same gender? Why not indeed?

Julian has the misfortune to fall into dark and difficult love with John Cleveland, the royalist poet, whose work in real life was extravagantly full of metaphorical conceits, and whose head was evidently full of contemporary notions about woman's place: on her back beneath him. Julian's tragedy moves in parallel with the impeachment and execution of the Earl of Strafford, Black Tom.

If you want to grumble, and I don't, you could say that the final fictional climax is a bit too convenient and dramatic to be true. They weren't really defeated. Learning and innocence, excellence and even Cambridge will always recover from the zealots and yahoos. Herrick's verses live. It is a very good novel because, although exceedingly historical, it is about real people who matter and about living issues.

Philip Howard

Pornography protests

Pornography and Silence, by Susan Griffin (The Women's Press, £4.75). *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*, by Andrea Dworkin (The Women's Press, £4.75).

In the prologue to *Pornography and Silence*, Susan Griffin invites her readers to consider six famous lives — those of the writers Kate Chopin, the painter Francis Bacon, the Marquis de Sade, Anne Frank, a man called Lawrence Singleton who raped a young woman and cut off her arms, and Marilyn Monroe. The tragedies inherent in each, she says, were caused "not so much by nature as by the decisions of a mind we shall call pornography".

Pornography and Silence is an attempt to analyse such a mind, to understand how it works, why it needs to humiliate, degrade and reduce. In the case of the painter, Susan Griffin has covered a great deal of ground, from early Christianity to the Nazi massacres, from Victorian pornography novels to American "snuff films".

She makes no move to disguise her viewpoint. Susan Griffin is a feminist and she finds pornography repellent and harmful, something written for men and by men "according to male language and a male ethos". But it is the wider definition that really interests her — and that she conveys with knowledge and understanding, that of pornography's connection with expectations and upbringing, with pain and prostitution.

From the beginning she sets out, using her cast of examples, to disprove a number of myths. Pornography is not, she says, part of a move towards sexual or any other liberation: it is its antithesis. Nor is it, in the case of the teaching of the church, for "perdition, sin and hell haunt the pornography". The result is an entertaining and readable book, rich in reference and evidence, if slightly over-written in style.

In *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*, Andrea Dworkin takes a fiercer stand. Her interest lies in power, the power of men over women in pornography, the fact that for women it is a world dominated, used and despised and that "men are the army; penises and their symbolic representation are the weapons; terror is the means; violence the so-called sex". Inside this is a good example of the writer, well plotted and readable book. A deeply, carefully, researched story set in India at the time of the Mutiny, horrifically realistic as it is in the parts where realism is necessary, it is nevertheless a very romantic novel.

It is easy enough, perhaps, to make the past seem romantic; but there are some writers skilled enough to tackle modern themes without too much cynicism too. Catherine Ross's *The Colours of the Night* (to be paperbacked in March) is a good example of the writer, well plotted and readable book. A deeply, carefully, researched story set in India at the time of the Mutiny, horrifically realistic as it is in the parts where realism is necessary, it is nevertheless a very romantic novel.

It was to Catherine Ross I put the question: "Why are there not more real love stories about these days?" She answered: "Because it's damned difficult to write convincingly about real love. It's much easier to write about lust."

Elizabeth Grey

Other books reviewed on Page 11, include: *Enoch Powell on Churchill's last government*

Interview

Dirk Bogarde, man of letters



Dirk Bogarde: feeling closer to books than to films

Dirk Bogarde is an infrequent visitor to London now. He no longer cares greatly for the city and prefers to spend his time in his home in Faversham. He did, though, slip in a few days ago to keep a date on the Russell Harty television programme. Bogarde has reason to be grateful to Russell Harty. Without him contact might not have been made with Chaz and Windus, for whom the actor has written two books of autobiography and a brace of novels, the most recent of which, *Voices in the Garden*, has spent the last month on the fiction bestseller list. Surprisingly, on their latest television encounter Harty made no reference to the debt; perhaps he was being modest, or perhaps he simply forgot.

The seed of the Bogarde connexion was sown in the mind of Miss Nina Smallwood, managing director of Chatto, some years ago when she was spending a weekend with friends in the country. Miss Smallwood is not known in the publishing business as a television addict nor does she have the reputation of being a great football fan. So she was not greatly pleased that Saturday evening to be confronted with *Match of the Day*. If they had to look at TV, she pleaded with her hosts, could they please watch something else.

A switch of channels brought Dirk Bogarde deep in conversation with Russell Harty. Miss Smallwood was captivated by Bogarde's skill as a raconteur and reckoned that if he wrote with the fluency he spoke, Chatto could have a new author on their books. So much she announced at the editors' conference the next Monday and the search for Bogarde began. He naturally knew nothing of the effect he had created.

"The reason for appearing on *The Russell Harty Show* was an attempt to write a book," he says. "I had just completed *The Night Porter*. We had no English distributor and the producer had been trying to sell it as an erotic picture, which it certainly was not. The programme was well received and we spent the whole of it talking about the film. Then, some months later, came this letter from

Chatto asking if I would be interested in writing my autobiography. As it happened, I had some of the raw material to hand.

"I have always been a compulsive letter writer. It began in the war when I was called up. I promised my father, who was then Art Editor of *The Times*, that I would write to him every week. I honoured that bond. These dispatches developed into a kind of journal about my life, although they have now all been destroyed.

"The second vital correspondence was with an American lady, who had chanced on a magazine photograph of me in an English magazine. That lady was the South of France. That was my literary mentor, she criticized my style and corrected my language. And yet we never even spoke. Once in New

York I was on the point of ringing up her New England number, but I then felt that the convention we had set ourselves should be observed. "When the invitation came from Chatto, the first three chapters of the autobiography had been written — for her. But she had died before I could post them."

Bogarde is reluctant to describe himself as a writer, although he half embarked on that career when he published a poem in the *Times Literary Supplement* at the age of 19. "Not my father's influence, whatever anyone may say," he has spent quite a lot of time sinking with the film scripts he had to learn. In particular he contributed to *Victim* Janet Green, the credited scriptwriter, apparently had no objection to her words being altered. "Some of the

lines in my earlier films were terrible and one could but improve them. Sometimes I think that the first script I had with real weight was when we filmed *The Doctor's Dilemma*, but audiences all over the country went expecting to see another sequence of *Doctor in the House* and were disappointed." So perhaps Dirk Bogarde should be dubbed a Renaissance Man?

"Renaissance Man? What does that mean?" Remember that I ran away to become an actor and never had a proper education. I'm an actor and I also write books. I draw and design my dustjackets, but not at all well. Graham Sutherland once said to me that I might one day do something quite good, but it would not be in painting. He described me as the visual equivalent of a copy writer. Well, I can do both books and dustjackets and that is about it."

He admits, though, to feeling closer to his books than to any of the multitude of films he has made and he does pay attention to the literary critics. "In the cinema you are reviewed by those who cannot act; the notices on the book pages are written by those whose business it is with words. It is the difference between the practitioner and the non-practitioner. Adverse reviews do not hurt — I got over that long ago in films where I've been hurt too much and too often — but there is no pretending that they do not disappoint."

"What pleases me about the book trade is the way one is welcomed into it without resentment. A writer turning up on a film set would get a very frosty reception. But here we all are at it — Niven, Ustinov, More, Susan Hampshire, Jackie Collins — and no-one objects."

Perhaps then Mr Bogarde's passport will one day read "Author"? "I confess to making a slight move in that direction a few days ago when I had to go and register as a foreign resident at the local town hall. I added the word 'Environneur' and the heading 'Profession'. In France, actors are considered to be a very low form of life, but as a writer you immediately move into quite a different social category."

John Higgins

Television

Bosom baloney

BBC 2's *The Borgias* did not really claim its publicity to be history and in vision does not have much claim to be drama either. It is more a salacious setting for pope grope — just a load of bosoms, backsides and baloney. Still not everyone may realize that, though the Borgias were not suitable cases for canonization, they were not quite what they are painted here.

Those whose interest is aroused and who cannot believe their eyes should trek to the local library for the facts. Not everyone, unfortunately, will be so sceptical and the BBC will have something to answer for if Pope John Paul on his visit next year hears some mystifying shouts of "What about the Borgias then?" It's hardly an appropriate scene-setter.

With six episodes to go the Ten Commandments are in tatters and one is left to wonder what possible variations there can be, particularly of transgressions of the fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth.

Last night found Lucrezia in a nunnery awaiting the birth of her father's child (dubious history, this) and asking brother Cesare to survive her. He, having killed brother Juan (doubtful history) in the previous episode under the mistaken notion that Juan was to blame for his sister's predicament, was taken aback — one can imagine — not merely because of this error or judgment but because he was, understandably, doubtful about the validity of his absolutism.

Meanwhile, back at the Vatican, Big Daddy Borgia (Adolfo Celi) was put out every time he is in this condition we get big close-ups of his nose, which is truly remarkable but wearsome after a time.

On this showing the Borgias would have been better even for Nottingham Social Services whose work we were invited to look at again in BBC 1's *All Those Hard Luck Stories*. This third of the four-part series, *Family Matters*, dealt with two cases: one where a boy is put in care by his family; the other where a boy absconds from care with family connivance. Two complex cases and all in 30 minutes. My doubts about this series remain. It invites judgments on too little evidence and an identification of minors continues to nag.

Dennis Hackett

● Jean-Pierre Bonnefous will choreograph the Metropolitan Opera's new production of Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*.

The work will have its premiere on December 3 as part of a triple bill of Stravinsky works which also includes *Le Rossignol* and *Edipus Rex*, being presented by the Metropolitan in honour of the composer's centenary.

Mr Bonnefous, who will be making his Metropolitan debut, joined the New York City Ballet as a principal dancer in 1970 and first choreographed for that company in 1978.

Opera

The force of destiny

Cardiff New Theatre

With its pungent, robust choral scenes, *La forza del destino* has long seemed obvious repertoire material for the Welsh National Opera, whose chorus has always been its pride and treasure. As music, for intimate as well as crowd scenes, is superbly inventive in any case, fully mature in style, dating as it does from his return to operatic activity after a period of retirement.

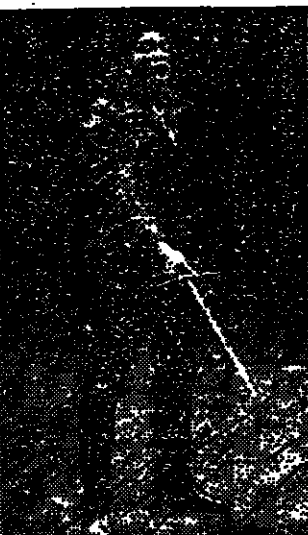
Stage productions anywhere are few and far between, if only because the opera is expensive and mechanically complicated. In Wales, since the war, we have seen only one by Carl Ebert for Glyndebourne, one by Sam Wana-maker at Covent Garden and one at the Coliseum by Colin Graham. WNO's production first shown in Cardiff on Tuesday, is the work of a man of abundant ideas about music, drama, spectacle and social comment.

The approach of Herz, perfectly serious and impressive in the monastic scene of Leonora and the Father Superior, controlled farce in the soup-kitchen episode (Nicholas Follwell a strong Melitone), is typified in the second scene, the tavern where Leonora, on the run, avoids meeting her brother Carlos during a cabaret supper. She is seen inside in her room; he, and the others, are outside in the courtyard common departure from the stage directions. Carlos constantly tries to enter the inn, vainly until the end, when Leonora has fled with the aid of Trabucco and Preziosilla.

Verdi's Mayor in charge of supper is properly made the innkeeper, a silent role in the original. The scruffy appearance of the crowd contrasts violently with the decorous dress of the first scene, and with Carlos' smart leather costume in the tavern; he is obviously an outsider. The passing pilgrims are exaggerated into something like candidates for an *Autoda je* to sharpen the contrast. Carlos' narration, "Son Pereda" has its text changed to avoid his deception in favour of truth and anonymity (Andrew Porter's English version is the basis of the production).

When bedtime comes, the crowd does down in the courtyard. It is all rougher and more realistic than in the libretto, but does not go against the music, indeed matches it uncommonly closely, except perhaps for the dapper bit of "Son Pereda", at odds with the new narration and with Norman Phillips' overly gruculent Carlos' dry and raucous voice, a sulky pout forever on his lips.

It was said that Verdi's



Moises Parker as Alvaro: heroic yet touching

First St Petersburg version of the opera would be used, as performed concert-fashion at this year's Proms. In the event, only the ending reverts from the familiar Milan revision, replacing the lovely final trio (rather sentimental, Herz believes) by the original chorus of monks and villagers. Even so, Alvaro does not throw himself from the cliff, but remains agonized at the centre of the stage, surrounded by cries of "Misericordia!"

"That the intention is unforgotten even moralistic, may be deduced from the backdrop of the apocalyptic horseman, Death. Claire Powell's provocative, dramatic, catchy Proscilla leads these revels with cogent gutters-stardom.

The insane preoccupation of the Calatrava family with its implacable code of honour, and the heroes and villains involved therein are not swamped by Herz's emphasis on the activity of the mob. Don Garrard's Father Superior brings serene goodness to his scenes and an authoritative presence. Moises Parker, a handsome British black tenor, looks nothing like an Inca but nobly represents the victim of the Calatrava's racial prejudice, and sings Alvaro's music with a heroic commitment and touching naturalness that minimize his technical shortcomings.

Elizabeth Vaughan, as Leonora, contributed some rough and ill-tuned singing, but bestowed the ensembles with the power and radiance of a heroine, and wore boyish costume to admiration. Verdi's ardent inspiring score, in the capable, fervent charge of Richard Armstrong, kept ears alert and appreciative throughout an evening which seemed shorter than the clock declared. WNO will bring this *Force of Destiny* to London next April.

William Mann

Concerts

Beauty out of newness

LSO/Abbado

Festival Hall

The Brendel/Abbado crash course in the evolution of the Beethoven piano concerto, has, alas, come to an end. On Tuesday night the Emperor Concerto stood triumphantly atop the podium, a kind of programme begging no comparison other than in retrospect with its fellows or with a contemporary symphony.

And those in the audience who had caught new sounds, or experienced new ideas in Alfred Brendel's performance of the earlier concertos could not have been disappointed by the night's performance, as much a summation of Brendel's interpretative explorations as the concert itself is a synthesis of the technical and expressive explorings of the earlier works.

One was, in fact, aware more of the soil out of which this last concerto grew than of the extraordinary power of any new growth: the first movement's energies were held in taut classical equilibrium, though there were times when the minimalist detail of much of the key-board playing was not answered by equally fine perceptions in the orchestra. Neither were they as sharp in their responses to Brendel's fiercely demanding nervous energy in the last movement.

A Lutyens premiere

Lontano

St John's, Smith Square

The New Macnaghten Concerts on Tuesday night opened a series of four recitals to trumpet half a century of varying fortunes but continuous enthusiasm in the promotion of contemporary English music, from Britten and Tippett in the '50s to Cuckson and Lefant in the '80s. Quite properly the programme paid special homage to a composer who in her own music joins those generations and who has been associated with the Macnaghten concerts throughout their history: Elizabeth Lutyens.

Maybe a Lutyens premiere these days is no great cause for comment; she has become quite extraordinarily prolific, and *Rapprochement* for horn, harp and two guitars, her Opus 149, held few surprises in its dexterity, its steady pace and its perfectly clear shape. But chances to hear her earlier music are rare, indeed, and keen anticipation was well rewarded by the performance of her first chamber concerto of 1940 by Lontano, playing very well throughout this concert under Lionel Friend.

The Lutyens concert,

They have had a strenuous few weeks and the strain is beginning to show.

But the dust between timpani and piano just before the end epitomized a character in the performance that alchemized the playing, magicking even its imperfections into a thing of interpretative beauty. As if taking the cue in anticipation from the suspended tension of the wonderful link between second and third movements, Brendel concentrated into the second movement his special sense of searching out as many ways as possible of suspending time through the hallowing of each cell of sound, so that we, and surely the orchestra as well, are made to feel part of a private and unpredictable process of creation.

A summation of a different nature was presented after the interval in Verdi's *Four Sacred Pieces*, his last published works. In the sense of distant wisdom and recollection that breathes through even the most vividly imagined and dramatic moments, Verdi seem to be showing us the other side of the *Falstaff* coin, offering the religious complement to the secular wisdom that saw the world as a joke and all men born fools. The London Symphony Chorus emphasized the otherworldliness of the work even at times at the expense of its full, earthy humanity, particularly in the unaccompanied

women's parts. Their treble-like timbres, while showing off admirably controlled diction and pitch, quavered a little for lack of support at entries and never quite lifted the line forcefully enough at climax points. But the choir's wide, strong range of vocal timbres was exploited to the full in the "Te Deum" held by Abbado within the even tempo that Verdi required and resplendent with spatial effects that more than once seemed to turn concert hall into cathedral.

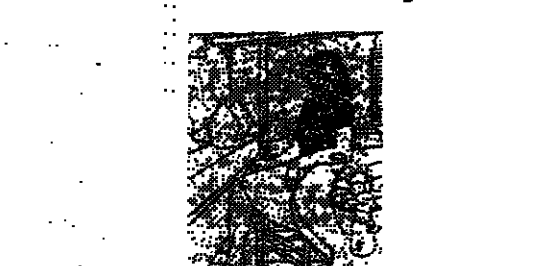
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The Queen's Speech

Offer of 'BP solution' to avert gas break-up

British Gas, a principal target of the Whitehall privatization plan, has tonight strongly challenged the plans and suggested that the Government considers an alternative course which would preserve the structure of the organization.

The corporation, in a detailed policy statement endorsed by its entire board in response to the ending of its monopoly outlined in the Queen's Speech, said that it saw no business or economic reason for breaking its present integrated structure.

Its alternative, which ministers will be invited to consider, is a so-called "BP solution" under which the equity would include a private sector holding and a Government stake.

"If Government policy requires the recruitment of private capital, consideration should perhaps be given to the introduction of a shareholding in the integrated corporation rather than risking the piecemeal break-up of an economic structure which has a proven record of success," British Gas said.

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Sir Denis Rooke, the corporation's chairman, who has vigorously contested the plans to sell and has opposed the sale of its oil interests and the ending of its monopoly in gas supplies, will shortly begin discussions with Ministers on the proposed legislation.

The statement, the first detailed public response by British Gas since the break-up plan was announced last month, by Sir Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, and the suggested "BP solution" is particularly significant.

It is the first time that British Gas has suggested this option although it has been advocated in the past by former chairmen, including Sir Henry Jones. Privately, executives admit that the concept has received only preliminary study but close investigations will be undertaken.

The board attacked Mr. Lawson's claim that the alleged shortage of gas stemmed from its buying riphas and said that the shortages had resulted from fuel assets switching from oil to gas after the Iranian revolution, which led to oil shortages and price increases.

It acknowledged that technical difficulties in extracting gas from the Shell-Esso Brent field meant that supplies from that source — initially 350m cubic feet a day — would not begin until next year, three years later than planned.

"Despite the flight from oil, the corporation has not only satisfied virtually all the outstanding demand from industrial customers to whom a gas supply is essential for their processes, but has supplied an additional 500,000 domestic customers," British Gas said.

It strongly defended its marketing policy which, it claimed, was fully consistent with a conservationist approach to energy utilization, and emphasized that the strengths of an integrated industry, especially its flexibility during emergencies like that of a week ago when a third of Britain's natural gas supplies were halted by a strike on the Frigg field, would be a key element in the forthcoming talks.

Playboy's admiral in line for £450,000

By Philip Robinson

Admiral Sir John Treacher, head of Playboy for 36 days before the group decided to sell out to Trident Television, is expected to collect a £400,000 golden handshake.

He was appointed on August 1 to replace the flamboyant £200,000-a-year Mr. Victor Lowman, who was sacked in April and whose golden handshake from Playboy is estimated at £340,000.

Meanwhile Playboy is understood to be having talks with Mecca, part of Sir Maxwell Joseph's Grand Metropolitan Group about buying the six bingo halls, the residue of the Playboy empire after Trident takes the casinos and betting shops for £15m.

Trident's purchase is not conditional on the current appeals by Playboy against the removal of its gaming licences for the Playboys Club in Park Lane and the Clermont Club in Berkeley Square.

Opposition to the group's third London casino, the Victoria, will be heard after the appeals are completed.

There was a suggestion yesterday that Trident's share price should be suspended on the stock market while the appeal was being heard. But it will be going to court last night, up to a new peak of 58p.

In New York, Playboy's share price gained a further 50 cents, making a two-day rise of \$1 to \$7.25.

Officials are already drafting a short Bill which will amend last year's Coal Act. To be published shortly, the Bill will confirm increases in the NCB's grants, borrowing ceiling and external finance limit for this year which were outlined in the summer by former Energy Secretary Mr. David Howell. The board's grants are being increased from £525m to £590m, the borrowing limit from £3,400m to £4,200m and the external finance limit from £880m to £1,177m.

Ministers are also to introduce another short Bill which will raise the borrowing limit for British Shipbuilders by about £200m from the present ceiling of between £500m-£600m. The corporation's present borrowings amount to about £400m and the increased ceiling is needed to take account of possible short-term fluctuations in borrowings over the next 12 months.

field at Wyth Farm in Dorset and the proposed legislation will affect its interests in the north west, Burton, Beryl and Montrose fields.

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Sainsbury profits top £42m

By Peter Wilson-Smith

J. Sainsbury, the High Street supermarket chain, has reported a 38 per cent rise in half-year profits to £42.5m. The rise was more than the stock market expected and Sainsbury's shares climbed 20p to 49p.

The good results fuelled speculation of an impending merger with British Home Stores, whose shares jumped 10p to 129p yesterday. But both Sainsbury and BHS are firmly denied to be merged. The two groups are linked through their joint venture in Savacentre hypermarkets.

Sainsbury said that in the last six months its staff strength had risen by 64 per cent, compared to a gain of 2,800 new jobs because of growth. Seven superstores had been opened during the first half and another 10 stores were planned in the second half.

Sainsbury's sales rose by 24 per cent to £396m, a time when national food sales have been broadly static.

The half-year dividend has been raised by 44 per cent to 4.66p gross. Current cost profits showed a rise from £30.8m to £42.5m before tax.

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Lift-off for an airship Advent card.

Russians 'eased out' of greetings card market

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

"Diplomatic pressure" has eased the Russians out of the British greetings card market, according to Mr. Bob Gaymer-Jones, president of the Greetings Card and Calendar Association.

The Russians have been taking an 8 per cent slice out of the market over the past two years, but Bristol card makers were displaying their widest Christmas smiles yesterday in London at the prospect of increased sales as the Christmas card market was unleashed.

Average price of a Christmas card rises from 7p to 9p this year — a 28 per cent increase — which should mean sales estimated at £224m showing a value rise of 14 per cent. Volume sales should be up 18m to 1.752m, a 1 per cent rise following last year's 4 per cent increase.

Sales of calendars are also healthy while earlier this year seasonal cards like Valentines, Easter and Mother's and Father's Day rose 10 per cent in volume to 65m. Last year these sales were up 13 per cent. Average price of non-Christmas cards, which account for 23 per cent of the market, rose 2p this year to 25p.

The industry, which employs 10,000 workers, has virtually shrugged off the recession.

But the 30 members of the Association — dominated by four companies which account for about 65 per cent of the market — have their problems.

Mr. Gaymer-Jones, who is head of J. Arthur Dixon, the Isle of Wight card manufacturer that is part of the Dickinson Robinson Group (DRG), warned that a possible trimming of the industry's 12,000 new Christmas designs a year as an economy measure combined with a tendency for less retail space for cards could lead to price increases.

The British makers of postcards, which rely on them entirely for their production, are also under pressure from imports, particularly from Spain but also Italy and Israel.

Bank subsidy for jobs

By Our Banking Correspondent

In a remarkable departure from normal commercial banking practice, the Bank of Scotland has joined forces with the Scottish Development Agency in a £500,000 subsidised lending scheme to help start new companies and create new jobs in the Clydebank Enterprise Zone.

Both the SDA and the Bank of Scotland are subscribing £250,000 each towards a new company, Clydebank Enterprise Fund, which will offer normally unsecured loans of up to £25,000 to businesses setting up or expanding in the enterprise zone.

Borrowers will be offered a real rate of interest of 5 per cent per annum for up to 10 years. The loans will cost the bank a margin of 9 to 10 per cent.

Mr. J. M. McMillan, joint general manager of the Bank of Scotland, said the sums involved were small and the bank was acting in the interests of Scotland. "It is philanthropic if you like, but if we raise some new businesses then the cost will have been worth it."

Garages' credit card protest

The Motor Agents Association has written to Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, criticising unreasonable Government delays in reaching a decision over the future of the non-discrimination clause on the use of credit cards.

After the Monopolies and Mergers Commission 13 months ago recommended to the Government that the credit card companies' non-discrimination clause should be scrapped, some petrol retailers in advance of any Government decision started charging customers when cards were used.

Dorset gas site

British Gas is to start site work this month at Waddock Cross, Affpuddle, Dorset, where seismic surveys have indicated a possible oil reservoir. Drilling will start next year.

Hongkong is top exporter

Hongkong regained its position as the world's biggest exporter of clothes last year, Italy held the position in 1978 and 1979.

The colony's clothing exports rose by 16 per cent and were worth \$4,674m, only 5 per cent more than in 1979.

Hongkong also overtook Japan as the world's second largest exporter of watches by value and maintained the position it has held for three years as the world's largest exporter of watches by quantity.

Exports of its watches rose 48 per cent in value to \$1,046m, compared with Japan's \$1,035m. Switzerland remained the largest exporter of watches by value at \$1,955m.

Record vote at Lloyd's

Lloyd's of London attracted a record number of votes at yesterday's general meeting for the election of the four vacancies on its 1982 committee.

Mr. Peter North Miller, 51, who leads the team piloting the Lloyd's Bill through Parliament, gained the largest number of votes with 2,050. He is vice-president of the British Insurance Association and was committee member between 1977 and 1980.

The other vacancies will be filled by Mr. Terence William Higgins, 55, chairman of Leslie Langton Holdings, Mr. Frank Barber, 58, who was chairman of the Non-Marine Underwriters Association in 1972; and Mr. David Barham, 55.

Beer production went down

Beer production went down 1.9 per cent in September, bringing the 1981 decline so far to 4.4 per cent, both being in comparison with the same periods last year. Indications are that trade sales are running 6 per cent down, the Brewers' Society said.

Energy consumption in Britain fell

Energy consumption in Britain fell 2.6 per cent during the three months to September, compared with the same period last year, according to the Department of Energy. Petrol consumption was down 5.2 per cent, coal 1.2 per cent and natural gas 1.3 per cent.

NEB has £14.2m half-year loss

By Our Industrial Editor

The National Enterprise Board (NEB), charged by the Government with stimulating high technology industries, recorded an operating loss of £14.2m in the first six months of this year.

Figures issued yesterday by the NEB which, since July this year, has been effectively merged with the National Research Development Corporation to form the British Technology Group (BTG), showed that its investments in the companies which are designed to provide the springboard to a new industrial revolution performed poorly.

Increased losses compared with a year earlier were recorded by most of the board's subsidiaries over the six-month period. The largest loss was recorded by Immos, the semiconductor company which was backed with £100m of State funds to mass-produce microchips.

Immos lost £6.8m in the first half of the year compared with £2m last year. The company which is building its first production plant at Newport in South Wales is expected to move into profit in 1983 with that forecast based on the expectation that its advanced products will be taken up by customers around the world.

Another subsidiary company, Nexos Office Systems, recorded a loss of £4.5m. BTG is at present in talks with Gestechnic over the sale of Nexos but industry sources believe it unlikely that BTG will be able to realise even one third of the £30m invested by the NEB since 1979.

In the first half of last year NEB recorded an operating loss before interest of £11.8m on a turnover of £94.7m. This year the pre-tax loss has more than doubled from £5.5m to £11.9m with turnover down to £59.2m.

The poor results reflect not only the impact of recession on the activities of subsidiary companies but also the effect of sales which NEB was required to make of some of its major investments.

Under orders from the Government, the board was required to sell its stake in Fairley Hold, the first six months of last year the board's stake in Ferranti contributed a £3.5m profit to the profit and loss account.

NEB is required to dispose of its investments in subsidiaries in the private sector as they become profitable. Because of the high technology nature of the sectors in which most of the subsidiaries are involved, with heavy initial investment required, it will be some time before profits are generated.

Some disposals have been made which have produced considerable returns on the original investments including that of Automation and Technical Services (Holdings) in March when NEB sold its 30 per cent stake. At the beginning of the year the board made a return of more than 500 per cent on its original investment in Systems Designers International which was sold.

In the first half of the year NEB has made further investments including £3.2m in Onest Automation and has increased its equity holdings in a number of companies.

Majority share in ACC

By Our Financial Staff

Australian businessman Mr. Robert Holmes a Court announced yesterday that he controls 50.1 per cent of the non-voting shares of Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation, the 10 million shares needed to lift his holding from 30 per cent cost him about £6m.

His purchase comes on the eve of consideration by the Independent Broadcasting Authority of ACC's proposals to sell 49 per cent of ATV, its television company. The group's merchant bank, S. G. Warburg, is expected to publish today the prospectus detailing the way the ATV shares will be sold.

Mr. Holmes a Court is expected to join ACC's board. The IBA which must be consulted over significant board changes and transfers of voting shares is unlikely to object. Nor would it oppose a move to give Mr. Holmes a Court some voting shares, providing this did not constitute a change of control.

Mr. Kerry Packer and Mr. Rupert Murdoch set precedents for Australian businessmen having a place on the board of British television companies.

Mr. Holmes a Court was expected to increase his non-voting stake in Lord Grade's company following his rapid buying during the summer and his appearance at ACC's annual meeting.

Suggestions that Mr. Holmes a Court's stockbrokers, Hoare, Govett, sought Stock Exchange permission to "re-do" Monday's bargain at Tuesday's higher price of 60p are believed to have been to lead to a smaller increase in the North Sea price, possibly of \$1.50 rather than \$2 as originally forecast. The current selling price is \$35.

Petrol price may rise by just 2p

By David Hewson

The rise in the price of petrol caused by last month's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is now likely to be about two pence a gallon, half that originally forecast.

The British National Oil Corporation is due to announce a rise in the price of North Sea crude within the next few days, possibly tomorrow. But the new price will be lower than that first expected which, combined with increasing competition in the retail petrol field, is likely to minimize the effect on the motorist.

The main reason for the lessening of the rise is the apparent decision by African oil producers to ask for a lower new price in return for an increase in the volume of sales. High-quality African crude is comparable to that of the North Sea in quality and price. BNO had hoped to quote its new rate earlier this week, but the move was delayed.

Oil ministers' statements after the Geneva Opec meeting suggested that Libya and Algeria would opt for quotes near the new \$38 a barrel Opec ceiling.

Yesterday the Japanese re-petitioner Idemitsu Kosun Kaisha said that Libya was asking \$37.50 for a barrel of Zueitina crude, quoted before the Opec deal at \$39.90, and earlier in the year at \$41. London oil sources said that within the industry Algeria was expected to charge \$37.50.

Nigeria is selling similar oils at \$36.50. The moderation of the African rises is now expected to lead to a smaller increase in the North Sea price, possibly of \$1.50 rather than \$2 as originally forecast. The current selling price is \$35.

Gas and oil sell-off Bill soon

By Our Industrial Editor

Legislation to enable private investors to buy a substantial interest in the exploration and production activities of the British National Oil Corporation and the offshore oil interests of British Gas is expected to be enacted by the end of the new parliamentary session.

The plan, outlined last month by Mr. Nigel Lawson, the Energy Minister, and confirmed in the Queen's Speech, is likely to raise an estimated £2,000m. But the move to roll back the frontiers of State involvement in the offshore industry by opening up businesses to private sector investment, are being accompanied by other measures to provide additional Government finance for other State industries.

The cost of the Government's climb-down over the threatened strike by mineworkers earlier this year, against the background of the National Coal Board's plans to accelerate the closure of uneconomic pits, will be reflected in a new Coal Industry Bill to amend the

NCB's financial structure. Mr. Patrick Jenkin, the Bill Industry Minister is also expected to introduce a short Bill which will increase the borrowing ceiling for British Shipbuilders.

Plans for the privatization of BNO's production interests, and the oil interests of British Gas are likely to be introduced early next year in a combined Bill. The Government is also planning to end the Gas Corporation's statutory right to the purchase of gas to be used in Britain; to allow private companies to supply gas direct to industrial customers; and to give those companies access to British Gas's pipeline network on "fair terms".

The plans to sell off a majority stake in the production activities of BNO (the Government is expected to retain a 49 per cent interest) have been described by Mr. Lawson as the biggest privatization programme undertaken in Britain.

British Gas has already been ordered to dispose of its 50 per cent interest in the onshore oil

field at Wyth Farm in Dorset and the proposed legislation will affect its interests in the north west, Burton, Beryl and Montrose fields.

Officials are already drafting a short Bill which will amend last year's Coal Act. To be published shortly, the Bill will confirm increases in the NCB's grants, borrowing ceiling and external finance limit for this year which were outlined in the summer by former Energy Secretary Mr. David Howell. The board's grants are being increased from £525m to £590m, the borrowing limit from £3,400m to £4,200m and the external finance limit from £880m to £1,177m.

Ministers are also to introduce another short Bill which will raise the borrowing limit for British Shipbuilders by about £200m from the present ceiling of between £500m-£600m. The corporation's present borrowings amount to about £400m and the increased ceiling is needed to take account of possible short-term fluctuations in borrowings over the next 12 months.

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Spending set to exceed target

By Melvyn Wedlake

Whitehall sources yesterday admitted that government spending in the coming financial year will be higher than planned in the last expenditure White Paper published at the time of the Budget.

The confirmation that spending will not now be held down to planned levels comes after a series of tough Cabinet battles in which Treasury ministers have succeeded in preventing state expenditure levels from rising in 1982-83.

According to some estimates, new bids by spending departments are threatening to help push spending next year 17,000m above present plans. Cabinet "wrests" have been resisting pressure from Treasury ministers to revise expenditure proposals of find offsetting cuts elsewhere in their programmes.

There are indications that Treasury ministers would be prepared to settle for a rise in spending that was about half the 17,000m now being sought.

It was broadly confirmed in official circles yesterday that the battle is no longer about whether public spending will rise, but the extent by which it will rise. However, the determination of Treasury ministers to continue the struggle to keep a tight rein on spending was underlined in the Queen's Speech by the reference to the importance of "resisting the claims of the public sector on the nation's resources."

Expenditure was planned to fall by 1.6 per cent in volume terms between 1981-82 and 1982-83, according to the last expenditure White Paper. However, that was calculated on the basis of 1980 prices. Translated into cash terms, expenditure would have risen from £104,000m to £110,000m.

It is this latter figure which is now certain to be exceeded. Efforts by spending departments are thought to have amounted to £117,000m.

The desire to bring down the level of expenditure next year closer to original plans has led to a number of proposals for cutting the real value of social security benefits.

John Brown goes into US

An estimated £20m incursion into the depressed United States machine tool market is about to be made by John Brown, the British engineering group, which announced yesterday its intention to buy the whole share capital of Olofsson Corporation, of Lansing, Michigan.

Olofsson, makers of metal turning and boring machinery for the automotive, defence and energy-related industries, is a private company employing around 400 people.

Details of the size of the purchase have not been disclosed, but John Brown said a Class 1 circular would be sent to shareholders giving full details. Under the terms of the Stock Exchange listing agreement, circulars of this class are required whenever an acquisition represents more than 15 per cent of the net assets of the acquiring company.

Market estimates put the total acquisition around £20m though the highly depressed state of the United States machine tools market, down 50 per cent on this time last year, means Brown could have made its acquisition at a bargain price.

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BUSINESS BRIEFING

P & O share price rises after bid speculation

There was speculation in the City yesterday that P & O and Oriental Steam Navigation, Britain's largest shipping group, was about to receive a takeover bid from Hongkong.

Mr. Oliver Brooks, P & O managing director and head of finance, said he had heard rumours but nothing concrete had happened by late evening. At that time shares suddenly jumped from 114p to 130p. They opened yesterday at 107p and last week stood at 94p.

Stock market sources reacted cautiously to the price movements and rumours. Both have happened before.

Mr. Brooks said two sources in Hongkong and one in London were purchasing the stock.

500 steel jobs to go

British Steel is to axe 500 jobs at its Ravenscraig complex in Lanarkshire by next October, the 5,640 workforce was told yesterday. Most of the jobs will be in management and staff areas not directly associated with iron and steel making.

British Steel said a voluntary redundancy policy would be used. But Mr. Tom Brennan, the shop stewards' convenor, said "there would have to be enforced redundancies."

The corporation, which wants to cut its workforce from 108,000 to 90,000, said in London that redundancies were being decided locally. Those job losses, like those at the Welsh plants of Llanwern and Port Talbot earlier this week, were part of the exercise and

Austria's state holding company

Austria's state holding company for national industries has approved a 2,700m schillings (£94.4m) subsidy for two State steel concerns.

Advertising revenues in local radio

Advertising revenues in local radio was £4.35m in September, an increase of 24.9 per cent on the same period of 1980, the Association of Independent Radio Contractors said yesterday.

Garages' credit card protest

The Motor Agents Association has written to Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, criticising unreasonable Government delays in reaching a decision over the future of the non-discrimination clause on the use of credit cards.

After the Monopolies and Mergers Commission 13 months ago recommended to the Government that the credit card companies' non-discrimination clause should be scrapped, some petrol retailers in advance of any Government decision started charging customers when cards were used.

Dorset gas site

British Gas is to start site work this month at Waddock Cross, Affpuddle, Dorset, where seismic surveys have indicated a possible oil reservoir. Drilling will start next year.

Hongkong is top exporter

Hongkong regained its position as the world's biggest exporter of clothes last year, Italy held the position in 1978 and 1979.

The colony's clothing exports rose by 16 per cent and were worth \$4,674m, only 5 per cent more than in 1979.

Hongkong also overtook Japan as the world's second largest exporter of watches by value and maintained the position it has held for three years as the world's largest exporter of watches by quantity.

Exports of its watches rose 48 per cent in value to \$1,046m, compared with Japan's \$1,035m. Switzerland remained the largest exporter of watches by value at \$1,955m.

Beer production went down

Beer production went down 1.9 per cent in September, bringing the 1981 decline so far to 4.4 per cent, both being in comparison with the same periods last year. Indications are that trade sales are running 6 per cent down, the Brewers' Society said.

Energy consumption in Britain fell

Energy consumption in Britain fell 2.6 per cent during the three months to September, compared with the same period last year, according to the Department of Energy. Petrol consumption was down 5.2 per cent, coal 1.2 per cent and natural gas 1.3 per cent.

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Reagan U-turn urged over economic policy

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Nov 4

President Reagan is meeting growing unrest in Congress from members of his own party who are appealing to him to reverse key parts of his economic programme to try to avoid a record deficit in the next fiscal year.

Senate Republican leaders met for the second day today to try to reach agreement on what the Administration must do to avoid a deficit, which Congressional economists think will be between \$76,000m and \$100,000m.

For the first time too, reports from the White House say that Mr Reagan is being presented with more pessimistic forecasts by his own experts. They confirm the fears of a deep recession expressed by both the Congressional and private economists.

Like the other forecasters, Mr Reagan's own forecasters show deficits far in excess of the record \$66,400m set by President Gerald Ford's Administration in 1974.

A delegation of powerful Republicans, led by Senator Howard Baker, the Senate majority leader, is to meet Mr Reagan at the White House tomorrow to discuss strategy on the economy.

The combination of these escalating deficits and the country's increasing unemployment, now more than 7.5 per cent, is endangering the alliance of monetarists and "supply-siders" within the Administration. Supply-siders believe widespread tax cuts are necessary to recharge the economy.

However, there is now a deep conviction among some prominent Republicans that Mr Reagan must order large-scale tax increases rather than the tax decreases he has supported steadfastly so far and continues to support publicly.



Senator Baker: Talks with President



Senator Dole: No further cuts

The Republican leaders are divided sharply on the kind, amount and timing of tax increases. There is also considerable disagreement among them over whether it is possible politically to push through the additional Budget cuts of close to \$13,000m, for which Mr Reagan asked last month.

This week, for example, Republican leaders floated the idea of a new series of tax increases to raise Federal revenues. They ranged from a national sales tax to pay for new defence expenditure and an energy tax on petrol profits to a value-added tax on a wide range of consumer goods.

Senator Robert Dole, the Kansas Republican who chairs the powerful Senate finance committee, said this week it may be wiser to defer the added Federal budget cuts until after next year's election in which all house members

and nearly a third of the Senate will be involved. Senator Orrin Hatch, a conservative Republican from Utah, said: "We need some guidance from the White House. We can't do anything to iron out these Budget problems without Administration leadership."

Congressional Budget leaders, who have had no specific requests from the White House so far, are pressing ahead on their own with proposed legislation to solve the growing economic problems.

The Senate Budget committee is proposing a three-year package calling for \$181,000m in new Budget cuts and tax increases aimed at balancing the budget by 1984. The plan gives the President \$66,000m more than he sought in cuts in the social and defence programmes and tax increases four times those he proposed.

No policy of protection for British shipping

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

The Government will not embark on a protectionist policy for British shipping, despite recent appeals from the seafarers' unions. Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, made clear last night. Such a policy would be highly damaging for the industry and lead to a much smaller fleet, he told the annual dinner of the General Council of British Shipping in London.

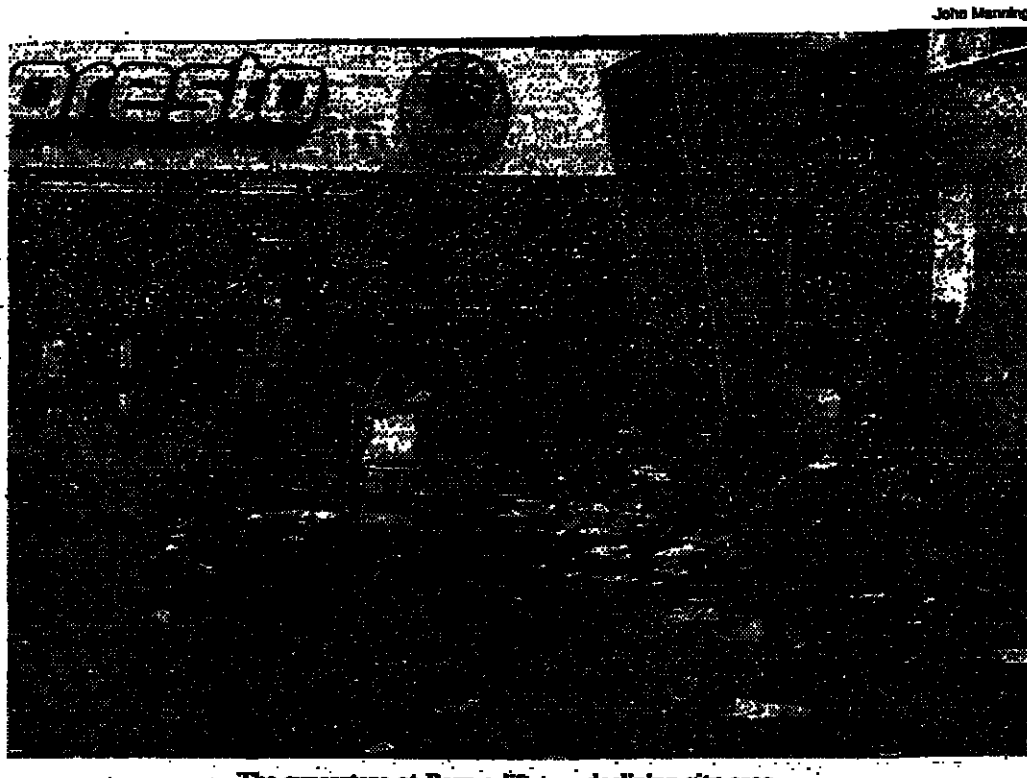
At recent tripartite talks between his department, shipowners and unions, the latter named sought reservation of coastal and North Sea trades to the British flag to preserve seamen's jobs at a time of unprecedented unemployment.

But such a course would invite retaliation from other countries whose damage to Britain's entire shipping industry would far outweigh any benefit to the protected trades.

Most vulnerable were the cross trades, which, at £1,800m in 1980, accounted for 64 per cent of British shipping's total earnings. These earnings depended on the willingness of foreign governments to allow British ships to compete against their own, Mr Biffen said, and if Britain were to seek to reserve, for example, 50 per cent of home trade earnings with a possible benefit of £500m, the far greater cross-trade earnings might be put at risk.

In the first place other countries would retaliate, in the second, Britain's example would be followed by others.

"I do not believe the shipping industry wants Government protection, and I devoutly hope not," Mr Biffen said. "I look to it to maintain its resolute independence."



The superstore at Bow: a lift to a declining city area.

Superstores 'counter city decay'

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The introduction of modern retail units such as superstores can bring stability to inner city areas, which are suffering from a decline in the number of jobs, particularly in the creation of more jobs.

This is the conclusion of a study by the Distributive Trades Economic Development Committee ("Little Noddy").

Redevelopment of an existing but declining shopping centre can bring stability to local retail employment and provide a major source of work, particularly for younger people, says the report.

The possible role of retailing in the regeneration of inner city economies has been overlooked for too often, Mr Grigor McClelland, Little Noddy's chairman, said. Unless this role is exploited any regeneration strategy will fail to achieve all the potential benefits, he went on.

With retailing a significant employer in inner city areas there was an opportunity to be made of retail development there, he added. The difficulties of retailers

in turning to inner city areas for expansion are not underlined in the study, which points out that earlier efforts at redeveloping old centres, or even some purpose-built district centres, had not been as successful as hoped.

The study — based on investigation of five cities and three developments at Breck Road, Liverpool, Roman Road, Bow, in London's East End and the Riverdale Centre, Lewisham High Street, south London — found that introduction of modern retailing, on balance, brought benefits to inner city areas. It did little harm to existing traders once the initial impact of opening a superstore was over.

Old shopping areas were rarely capable of regeneration without the injection of modern retailing, although there was limited indirect benefit from new stores on other services and businesses in an area. But even in times of recession, retail development in inner city areas could create jobs.

Co-operative Retail Services generated 80 new jobs with little impact on surrounding traders, the study found. But there were difficulties in letting ancillary shops in the early stages.

At Roman Road, Bow, a superstore opening by Presto, part of Allied Suppliers, produced 162 jobs, but Allied closed down a local supermarket and transferred 98 staff to the new Presto.

The Lewisham Centre, much larger, more complex and now the main shopping focus in its area, generated between 1,000 and 1,600 jobs. But set against that were jobs lost in old shops scrapped on the site and others trading elsewhere around the High Street. But, so far, it seems likely that finance and promotion for new shopping developments will still come from the private sector. The resources of local authorities are limited and aid under the Inner Urban Areas Act 1978 seems unlikely to be extensively used.

Retailing in Inner Cities: NEDO Books, £4.25.

Sainsbury's Successful first half

Sales, productivity, profit and investment at record levels

26 weeks to 12th September 1981	1981 £000	1980 £000	Change
Sales (inc VAT)	985,788	796,735	+23.7%
Retail Profit	41,657	30,533	+36.4%
Retail Margin	4.23%	3.83%	
Associates	855	314	+172.3%
Profit before Tax	42,512	30,847	+37.8%
Profit after Estimated Tax	29,758	21,593	+37.8%
Dividend per Share	3.25p	2.25p	+44.4%
Earnings per Share	17.66p	12.88p	+37.1%

Trading Performance

1. Sales advanced by 24% and volume growth (sales adjusted for inflation) was maintained at the exceptional level of over 15%. Over half this growth came from existing stores.

2. Seven new supermarkets were opened and achieved sales well ahead of forecast. During the second half a further ten stores are planned. The first of these, at Leeds, recorded in its opening week the highest volume sales for a new store opening ever achieved in the Company's history.

3. Our price competitiveness has improved still further. According to an independent "shopping basket" Sainsbury's prices were lower than the all-store average by a record 5%.

4. The volume increase achieved was accompanied by a further improvement in productivity of 5.6% compared to the previous year. This brings the five-year productivity performance up to a 29% increase in sales volume per employee (full-time equivalent).

5. Sales per sq. ft. of sales area also increased in real terms and reached £11.50 per week per sq. ft. This is almost double the industry average.

6. The increases in sales volume, productivity and sales density were the principal reasons for the improvement in the Retail Net Margin to an exceptional level and for the 37.8% growth in profit. In two years, profits in the first half have increased by 118%.

7. The Company's financial position remained liquid, although there was a small decline in the interest receivable compared to the same period last year. This is despite the current year's investment of over £100 million. The investment programme for 1982/83 is likely to be about one third higher but is not expected to result in significant interest charges.

Employee Numbers and Share Ownership

1. Our growth has resulted in the creation of no less than 2,800 new jobs during the past six months, a 64% increase in our total staff numbers. This shows

that increased productivity can lead to more jobs.

2. The second distribution under our Profit Sharing Scheme resulted in 333,000 shares going to 6,000 staff who chose to take their distribution in shares. A further 12,800 staff receive £2.2 million cash in profit sharing. As usual, no provision for profit sharing has been made in the half year accounts as the level of profit share is dependent upon the full year's results. If the Scheme's formula were to be applied to the half year's results alone, however, it would produce a distribution of £2.6 million in cash or shares.

Associates and Subsidiary Companies

1. The substantial improvement in the results of associates came about largely because of the turn-round in profitability of our joint hypermarket company, SavaCentre, following a year which had to carry the pre-opening costs of two new hypermarkets.

On 8th September the fifth SavaCentre opened outside Reading. It is the largest SavaCentre to date and its opening trade has exceeded our most optimistic forecasts.

2. Homebase, our new home improvements and Do-It-Yourself subsidiary company, has got off to an excellent start. The second store opened alongside our new supermarket at Leeds and is achieving a very good level of trade. It is hoped to open a further fifteen Homebases in the next two years.

Interim Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 3.25p per share (1980 2.25p) which, together with its associated tax credit, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 4.64p. This dividend will be paid on 22nd January 1982 to shareholders on the Register of Members at the close of business on 23rd December 1981. In declaring the interim dividend, the Directors have continued the policy started last year of restoring the interim dividend to its traditional level as a proportion of the total dividend.

Electronics chiefs to visit Japan

By Bill Johnstone

A delegation from the British electronics components industry has been invited on a fact-finding visit to Japan.

The invitation results from two visits in London between representatives of the Japanese and British electronics industries.

The Japanese are considering purchasing electronic components for television production in Britain on a greater scale than at present, but they said this depended on quality.

The visit to Japan, which will take place next year, is intended as the first move towards that goal.

More than 800,000 colour television tubes are imported by Britain each year. Sony, the British Mullard Company are now producing colour tubes in large quantities in Britain.

Sony, Panasonic and Toshiba are among Japanese manufacturers producing colour television sets in Britain.

The original talks included imports of black and white television sets and music centres but colour television remains one of the most lucrative of consumer electronics.

The numbers of video recorders imported by Britain each year still remains a sensitive subject in the consumer electronics industry and it was not included in the talks. The Japanese, however, did agree to "talks about talks" on these.

The market is now divided between the systems developed by Sony (Betamax), JVC (the VHS system) and Philips.

Tokyo urges US to scrap trade curbs

Tokyo, Nov 4 — The Japanese Government, under pressure from the United States to reduce its growing trade surplus, is planning to go on the offensive and ask Washington to remove its own non-tariff barriers. Tokyo foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

Tokyo is preparing a package of 14 demands including a call for Washington not to apply anti-dumping regulations indiscriminately and to remove restrictions on visas to Japanese businessmen.

The package resulted from meetings the Tokyo government held to hear grievances from the representatives of Japanese trading houses and corporations with offices in the United States.

A Foreign Ministry official called the package "a counter-measure" against a United States demand that Japan ease controls on imports to redress the lopsided trade relations. "We understand that they are working out plans to ask us to abolish some measures that are now holding down imports, and we decided to present them with our own series of requests," the official said.

The Japanese Government, he added, will ask the United

States for its response at a bilateral trade meeting to be held in Tokyo between December 7 and 9.

The planned Japanese Government step appears to be intensifying existing tension in Japan-United States trade relations as a result of snowballing trade surplus with the United States which in some quarters is estimated to reach about \$15,000m (£8,000m) in the current fiscal year.

And in the United States, while Congress continues to debate encouraging the creation of US export-trading companies, American subsidiaries of Japanese trading companies are quietly filling that role, according to the *Asian Wall Street Journal*. Mitsui (USA) did not appear in *Fortune* magazine's list of 50 leading exporters, but the New York subsidiary of Japan's Mitsui exported US goods valued at \$3,800m in 1980. That was more than any Fortune entry except Boeing, General Motors and General Electric, whose exports ranged between \$4,200m and \$5,500m.

Adding the \$1,100m that its two separate affiliates sold separately would bring Mitsui (USA) fairly close to the top — AP-Dow Jones.

Advice plan for small businesses

The success of a pilot advisory scheme to help small businesses to get started led yesterday to the backing of a plan by the Institute of Directors to start similar schemes throughout the country.

The Institute is asking all its branches to set up local "enterprise teams" offering wide-ranging advice on the setting up of new businesses. A pilot scheme was operated by the Institute's Surrey branch with the objective of establishing 100 new businesses in the area.

Since the September launch there had been 50 approaches for help and two new companies had already started from scratch with the scheme's help, Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute, said.

Eight more companies were expected to be launched soon under the scheme, he added. Institute members, including businessmen and specialists such as lawyers and accountants, are empanelled to give advice.

Advice can be given on forming a company, on Value Added Tax, property and insurance matters, accounting procedures and how to find external finance.

IN BRIEF

Bonn stands by Soviet gas project

□ Herr Otto Lamsdorff, the West German Economics Minister, said his government will stick to West European plans for future extensive natural gas imports from the Soviet Union, despite American concern over such energy deals.

He said he would make clear Bonn's position when, later yesterday, he was to meet Mr Myer Rashish, United States Under-Secretary of State, who is in Bonn trying to persuade the West Germans to abandon the Soviet gas project and offering alternative proposals from Washington.

The German minister said he did not know details of what America was proposing but said any Washington suggestions would be studied carefully.

5 per cent pay rise

□ One of the first private industry settlements of the current pay round has yielded 5 per cent rises for about 160,000 clothing workers. The deal, between the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers and the British Clothing Industries Association, provides for all rates and earnings levels to go up by that amount from November 1.

£1.26m quota fine

□ The European Economic Community Commission has fined Klockner-Werke, the German steel company, 2.15 million Ecu (about £1.26m) for exceeding its steel production quota in the first quarter of 1981 by about 28 million metric tons.

Deficit declines

□ The Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union's current account payments deficit in July was Bfr14,500m (£187.09m) calculated on a cash basis. This compared with a deficit of Bfr23,300m in June and a surplus of Bfr500m in July last year.

\$65m Canada surplus

□ Canada's trade surplus narrowed to a seasonally adjusted \$65m (£34.7m) in September from \$372m in August, the 17th consecutive month that export exceeded imports.

Belgian unemployed

□ Belgian unemployment at the end of October eased to 406,500 from 408,000 at mid-month but the jobless rate stood unchanged at 9.8 per cent, the labour office said in Brussels.

Lost hours

□ Working hours lost to strikes in Italy dropped to 2.9 million in September from 16.97 million hours in August. In the January-September period, hours lost dropped to 50 million, from 88 million in the same period of 1980. September of last year was marked by extensive strikes of metalworkers.

Jobless rise

□ Employment in Italy's main industries in August dropped 3.8 per cent from July, to indicate a steady rise of unemployment. In the January-August period of 1981, employment dropped 2.6 per cent in companies with at least 500 workers.

Indian oil find

□ Oil has been found at a depth of 13,246 feet in the oil-rich North-east Indian state of Assam.

Profits increase for fourth successive year

- Pre-tax profits 22% up at £4.70m.
- The annual revaluation of properties showed a surplus of £8m.
- Net rents increased by 23%.

Five Year Record based on the Consolidated Accounts					
	Years ended 24th June				
	1977 £'000	1978 £'000	1979 £'000	1980 £'000	1981 £'000
Properties	46,778	49,631	47,586	57,585	80,545
Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	23,293	28,223	37,786	44,930	62,930
Net Rents	2,841	2,755	2,756	3,079	3,799
Profit before Tax	(87)	1,902	2,868	3,870	4,703
Per Ordinary Share (adjusted for capital increases)					
Net Assets - before provision for deferred tax	p	p	p	p	p
Earnings	120	142	180	214	235
Dividends	(2.4)	3.8	7.1	8.9	9.1
	0.9	1.9	2.9	3.9	4.5

Commenting on these results, Sir Charles Ball, Chairman of Peachey, said: "The Company has withstood the recession well and the number of vacant properties is minimal. I am confident that we shall continue to report satisfactory progress."

Peachey
Property Corporation Limited

19 Sloane Street
London SW1X 9NE

J SAINSBURY

مكتبة الأمل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Pensions setback for early leavers

That contentious issue, the pension rights of early leavers, came under the spotlight yesterday, with the publication of the National Association of Pension Funds' reply to the Occupational Pension Board's proposals.

The biggest disappointment amongst many, must be the NAPP's refusal to commit itself to support of the basic principle of even-handed treatment for all pension-scheme members.

The OPB's committee was unanimous in its recommendation that early leavers should receive the same benefits for their years of pensionable service as their fellow members who stay in the same employment to pension age — a view few objective observers would dispute. The NAPP's comment on this basic principle is "nothing is ever as black and white as that" and goes on to attempt to justify the current inequitable situation.

As a trade organisation, representing the views of its members largely employers with self-administered pension schemes — it is perhaps too much to expect an objective appraisal of the situation. The NAPP's memorandum is, however, unimpressive even as a representation of its members' preoccupations.

In fairness to the NAPP, it makes no bones about its general stance — "the association is not in favour of the imposition by legislation of additional provision for early leavers". Its contention is that pension benefits have improved substantially over the past 10 to 20 years by voluntary negotiation, and this process of natural evolution should be encouraged in the area of benefits for early leavers. This ignores the practicalities of the situation.

Early leavers are, by definition, no longer contributing members and therefore have very little muscle in terms of negotiating a redistribution of benefits. Alternatively, they are contributing members who anticipate moving to another job and will largely be unaware of or unable to establish the pension loss until the decision to leave has been taken. In either case they are largely unrepresented with little powers to change existing practice.

In a more realistic vein, the NAPP suggests that employers might be obliged to review pensions for deferred pensioners as well as for existing scheme pensioners, with the outcome reported annually. This might be a step in the right direction if there were some requirement to treat both categories of members on an even-handed basis.

Surprisingly, the NAPP is prepared to support the removal of the option to "frank" benefits, the practice whereby increases in the statutory Guaranteed Minimum Pension are deducted from the members' entitlement to other scheme benefits.

The NAPP's perfectly reasonable concern is to protect hard-pressed employers from massive increases in pension fund contributions. But to seek to justify this concern by maintaining that the current system is fair and reasonable, does the Association and its members no credit.

No-one seriously disputes that the benefits paid to pension-fund members who stay to retirement are heavily subsidised by the contributions of early leavers and it is this inequity which the OPB's proposals seek to redress.

The Association, however, concedes nothing. Any suggestion that members should have a choice and that membership of pension schemes should be voluntary and not a condition of employment, is hotly opposed. Short of legislation, voluntary membership of a scheme may be the only effective route for early leavers to express their dissatisfaction.

J Sainsbury

Volume growth boosts profits

Sainsbury is continuing to show a clean pair of heels to its competition in the High Street with latest results for the 28

weeks to September 12 once again beating best expectations. The reputation the group seems to have established with the public for both quality and value-for-money has enabled it to continue pushing more volume through its stores — the 15 per cent volume gain included about 8½ per cent in existing stores — which quickly impacts on unit costs in a highly geared operation like food retailing.

A measure of the group's success is the rise in retail margin from 3.83 to 4.23 per cent — a level surpassed only in the very strong second half of last year — despite the fact that the group's April pay increase of over 14 per cent was about twice the level of internal inflation and well above that paid by other food retailers.

The result then of Sainsbury's volume growth, which must predominantly reflect enlarged market share, and improved productivity has been a 38 per cent profit rise to £42.5m before tax on only a 24 per cent sales gain to £986m.

Property shares

Space for improvement

Property shares still have their attractions despite high interest rates and the recession. This is underlined by the half-year figures from Great Portland Estates, a leading investment company with interests in prime properties in the West End and the City of London, where net revenue before tax rose by £1.6m to £6.1m. The company suggests that profits in the second half would be broadly in line with those of the first. This means about £12.2m, against £10.2m for the full year, while others such as Land Securities could produce £64m, compared with £54m and Hammerson £14.2m, against £11.3m, for their respective years.

At first sight, it might appear that the large number of empty buildings and factories throughout the provinces might damage the prospects of the likes of Slough Estates. However, these empty factories are owned by manufacturers and not by property investment companies.

In the West End of London rents have been standing on a plateau for much of this year. The average prime space can command is probably in the region of £20 per square foot, although a top figure of £24 could be seen in places. Space, particularly units of 50,000 square feet and small high-quality suites, has been difficult to let recently. But the property groups with investments there and in the City will benefit from reversions as usual. At present, there is a five-year rent review pattern.

The centre of the City of London is experiencing an acute shortage of prime space, thanks to the City being an international market-place, reflecting more of what is happening in the world generally than in the United Kingdom. Although the market is quiet, rents average around £25 a square foot with perhaps a peak of £27 being experienced in places. On top of that, a company, particularly the overseas banking and insurance groups which are still arriving in force, can expect to pay another £13 a square foot for rates, plus perhaps £5 for a service charge. On the fringe of the City, by contrast, the respective figures could be £13 for rental, £8 for rates and £3.50 for services.

With interest rates recently going up again, the market could be forgiven a certain nervousness and the shares of the property groups, like those of most other sectors, declined sharply. Now they are recovering, and Great Portland yesterday rose 8p to 194p, where it yields historically just 3.7 per cent. The groups are much more soundly based now than they were in the mid-1970s, with short-term borrowings, net of deposits, probably aggregating around £200m, against some £1,000m at the time of the 1974-75 crash. It is the certainty of the income from the companies that survived which makes their shares reasonably attractive to the institutions.

Battling to keep a foothold against the tide of imports

By most yardsticks Britain's machine tool industry has shrivelled in recent years to a shadow of its former self. The combination of years of investment starvation, conservative management and an inability to adapt quickly to changing trends in world competition have left it struggling for survival.

From being a world leader, the United Kingdom has slumped to sixth place in the league of machine tool production, falling behind the United States, West Germany, Japan, the Soviet Union and Italy. As an exporter it is in seventh place, the lion's share of world business having now been captured by the Germans and the Japanese.

The industry's index of production has declined almost catastrophically from 126.6 (1975=100) at the start of 1971 to 62.2 in the final quarter of last year. In the last decade employment has fallen from 68,700 to today's estimated 42,000.

It is a depressing catalogue of decline. Yet, if the industry has been on the receiving end of a series of hammer blows over the last decade, the results have not all been negative. Several years of accelerated capital investment have made the industry technologically strong and the survivors of the shakeout are on the whole much more efficient.

Dr Adolph Frankel, the chairman of Staveley Industries, for whom machine tools represented 22 per cent of the group's 1980-81 turnover of £154m, sums up the feelings of many of the industry's leaders: "On the positive side, our United Kingdom operations are now much leaner and sounder based; they have not been starved of capital investment even in the most trying circumstances; and they are fully poised to take advantage of any economic recovery."

Sir Jack Wellings, a vice-president of the Machine Tool Trades Association and chairman and managing director of the 600 Group, believes that the worst is over. "There are signs of improvement, inquiries are coming in, people are talking again about buying machine tools and there is a definite regaining of confidence."

The 16 companies in his machine tool division made a profit of £5.6m last year and the group is the largest machine tool manufacturing and merchandising operation in Europe. It has taken "drastic measures", including a 20 per cent cut in jobs in the past year.

At the same time, the company has been reshaped, and over an 18-month period, expanded and modernised. "It has put us into a position where any upsurge in business must have a good effect," Sir Jack says. But has the British machine tool industry left it too late to regain a more respectable position in the world league table? Will we see a revival? Will the all important home market continue to be swamped by imported equipment?

So far, with one or two hiccups, the United Kingdom industry has managed to maintain a favourable balance of payments. Last year its exports accounted for 47 per cent of output and were worth £290m, against imports of £268m; and in the last decade machine tools have made a net contribution of more than £200m to Britain's overseas earnings.

This year's trade balance will probably be better than last year's £22m, an indication of the drive to increase exports now under way in companies faced with a dep-

ressing low level of domestic ordering. Renewed home demand for machine tools is regarded as essential; otherwise the slimming operation — the increases in efficiency and productivity that have been achieved — will mean no more than that the industry marks time. Even importers will feel the draught, say industry leaders.

Machine tool men view with frustration the decision by BL to buy Volkswagen gearboxes rather than producing them at home with British tools. They would dearly love to see an end to delays of major capital projects such as railway electrification.

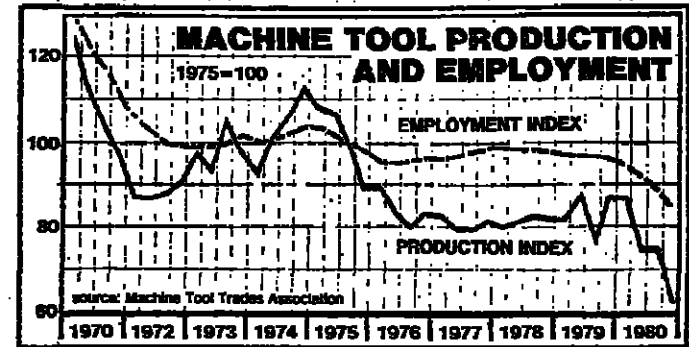
Not that the machine tool industry is protectionist, but like many other sectors it has been hit by factors beyond its control, such as high exchange rates and soaring energy costs. It has not complained in public about government economic policy, but it believes that it is now an efficient, cost-conscious sector with a stable industrial relations record that needs the impetus which only government can provide.

The perceptible rise in confidence among some domestic customers, but more markedly abroad, may not be enough to persuade many sections of the machine tool industry that recovery is on the way. As a result, some manufacturers are calling for temporary import restrictions, particularly aimed at the Japanese, to allow them some breathing space.

But in machine tools such arguments are unlikely to be converted into concerted pressure on the Government. Many companies are importers as well as producers and their trade association is committed to representing both activities.

Sir Jack Wellings, whose company sells both its own and others' machine tools, is a convinced free marketeer and is no supporter of restrictions. "Britain exports machine tools to 80 countries and because of that fact alone you cannot support trade barriers. My philosophy is always to go for the world market," he says.

One issue, however, has led



could almost be swept away. The Japanese could sweep through here like a tornado. The British industry's concentrated lobbying in Europe over the Japanese issue has now resulted in the delivering of a strongly worded warning by the European Commission which threatens the imposition of tariffs unless there is an early and dramatic reduction of imports of Japanese electronically controlled machine tools.

Under the intense pressure from overseas machine tool manufacturers the British companies have either become

between British and Japanese industry and is also painfully aware that the United Kingdom lags behind most other western nations in its use of robot technology.

Robot production seems to be a natural extension of the traditional role of the machine tool manufacturer. Given an end to the recession, British manufacturing industry could be making major investments in robots and, unless companies react swiftly, a large slice of the business will be captured by Japanese and American imports.

Interest is already growing and the British Robot Association estimates that 500 robots could be operating in British factories by the end of the year. This is a minuscule total compared with Japan's 8,000 robots and the 500 in the United States, but the growth potential is regarded as enormous.

Alfred Herbert, now being revived under the ownership of Tooling Investments of Birmingham, is only one company considering the production of its own robots as adjuncts to machine tools.

Mr Ron Lynch, Herbert's chairman, who bought the manufacturing interests after the final collapse of the group last year, is keen to build up a reputation as a supplier of complete manufacturing packages, including computer-controlled machine tools and robots and backed by extensive service facilities.

But the rejuvenation of Herbert (the company returned to profitability within months of the takeover) and the advances being made across the whole machine tools front will not stem the industry's decline without a general rise in optimism throughout manufacturing. Building machine tools for stock is now far too expensive and risky.

The B Elliott group, a leading manufacturer and importer of high technology machines, is typical of those suffering from lack of home orders. Its profits last year fell from £11.4m in 1979 to £6.5m and while manufacturing operations represented 43 per cent of sales they also supplied more than 90 per cent of the profits.

Mr Mark Russell, chairman of Elliott, says: "It is distressing to note that the level of orders of our group reflects the current lack of confidence among British manufacturers. I question whether, without investment in the latest technologies, the present trial by fire of industry is doing much to improve its future performance."

Concluded



A British-made numerically controlled drill in operation. The Japanese have made deep inroads into the market for numerically controlled equipment.

PARIBAS 81

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS

INTERIM REPORT

Unaudited and unconsolidated statement of the financial situation as at 30th June, 1981

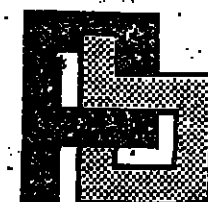
LIABILITIES	FFmillions	ASSETS	FFmillions
Share capital and reserves		Current assets	
Issued share capital	1,648.2	Balances with banks and money at call	41.7
Reserves	3,346.3	Amounts due from subsidiaries	445.7
Retained earnings as at 31.12.80	98.7	Other current assets	32.3
Gross profit to 30.6.81	111.1		519.7
Convertible loan stock	182.4	Convertible debt	130.0
Contingency reserves	180.3	Medium term loan to banking subsidiary	80.0
Current liabilities		Premium on redemption of loan stock	13.2
Amounts due to banks	552.8	Subsidiaries and portfolio investments	5,419.5
Other liabilities	42.8		5,168.4
	595.4		
	6,168.4		
Contingent Liabilities			
Guarantees and endorsements	221.9		

The half-year profits before taxes and provisions as at 30th June 1981 for the Compagnie Financière were FF111.1m, of which FF24.7m represented capital gains on the sale of securities. The remaining FF86.4m substantially comprised dividend income received from the portfolio investments of the Compagnie Financière during the first 6 months of 1981. It would not be appropriate to take these figures as an indication as to the full year's profits.

The Compagnie Financière will receive a large part of its portfolio income during the second half, and in particular the dividends from its subsidiaries, OPFI-PARIBAS, Paribas International and SOGEDI, whose aggregate contribution should show an increase on last year.

Consolidated figures
The first half consolidated profit after tax for the group was FF706.6m, compared with full-year profits of FF1,329.6m in 1980. The Compagnie Financière's share after deduction of minority interests was FF371.7m compared with FF365.2m, being half the previous year's attributable profit.

Earnings per share were FF22.55 against FF44.38 for the full year in 1980. The number of shares issued had increased to 16,481,737 at 30th June 1981 against 16,461,018 at 31st December 1980 as the result of debt conversion. The board of directors of the Compagnie Financière has declared an interim dividend for 1981 of FF9 per share which will be paid on 16th November 1981.



Head Office: 5, rue d'Antin 75002 Paris

Business Diary: Be it ever so Humble

The news that the White House is for sale might give pause to even the most ferocious supporters of President Reagan's cuts in public spending.

This White House, however, is not the one at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC, but a duplicate built further south near Galveston, Texas, by the founder of Humble Oil, the late Ross Sterling. This White House also has political associations, because Sterling used it as his official residence as state governor in 1930/31.

It really is an odd sale, for at \$1,475,000 (£785,000) the asking price of the Texas White House is, give or take the odd thousand, exactly what it cost Sterling to build the place half a century ago.

What is even odder is that the present owner, yet another oilman, bought the White House only a year or so ago, having paid \$975,000 for it. He now wishes to move on.

Part of the trouble with the Texas White House is that it is no longer as white as it should be. It stood empty for about five years before it was last bought and, says a spokesperson for the estate agents, Sotheby's, the present owner cannot be bothered with a paint job of this size. This to me sounds a little like trading in your Cadillac for a new one because the ashtray is full, but Sotheby's hints that the present owner found when he moved in that it was not the place for cosy living.

Sterling liked to say: "The oil business is fast. Shoot, and

then see what you have killed." As applied to property the answer in this case might seem to be a white elephant.

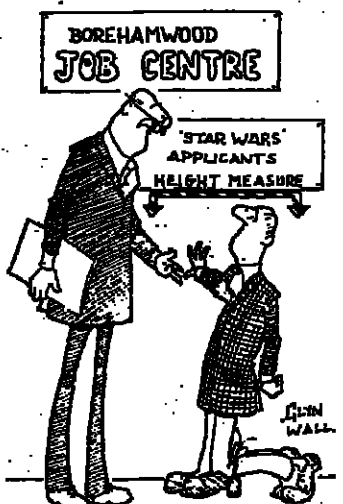
The Passport Office has a laconic way of changing a passport formerly shared by husband and wife to one for the husband only. Against the photograph of the wife they write "Wife deleted". Having been shown one of these documents, an expensively — and troublesomely — divorced colleague remarked: "Ah, if only it were that easy."

Stamping grounds

A combination of tax evasion and philatelic fever has created an extraordinary market in cut-price postage stamps.

The dealers get their supplies from two principle sources — companies who buy large quantities of stamps as a vehicle for dodging corporation tax and financial stamp collectors who buy and reject large quantities of stamp booklets in the search for the few with perfect perforations. The companies buy stamps in large quantities at the end of their financial year to use up profits. Then in the new tax year they sell them to the dealers at around 15 per cent discount, reviving the cash flow and netting an immediate profit at the tax-man's expense.

Dealers like West One of Ponsbury Place, London SW, sell the stamps at a tenth off face value. The minimum transaction across the counter is £5 and they do not



"Nice try Mr Watkins, but rules are rules I'm afraid."

guarantee any particular denominations. They also sell by mail order to larger customers and will buy even pre-decimal stamps at three-quarters of face value.

Mr Kevin Morgan, a director of West One, said: "We are always in the market for £5,000 to £10,000 worth of stamps at a time, depending on denominations. The rubbish we can swap with foreign dealers for other things. The larger denominations, like £1, £2 and £5 stamps, we can never get enough of. There are always mail order companies who have to send parcels abroad keen to buy what they can get at a discount." The Inland Revenue says: "We had not heard of this before, but must point out that it is as fraudulent for

companies to hold stamps without declaring their value as it is to mis-state the cash balance. The practice seems both dishonest and pointless."

Estate agent's Powell and Evans of Wellington, Shropshire are advertising a three bedroomed semi-detached house as "situated in a very rough area of Wellington and, having been knocked about a bit, in need of repair. Terrible lounge, porch, poky dining kitchen, three miserable bedrooms, bathroom with temperamental shower fitted, overgrown gardens, garage with holes in doors, full expensive gas central heating, miserable neighbours. Ridiculously overpriced at £17,450."

Time out?

This week's issue of Time carries a card offering Christmas gift subscriptions at 25 per cent off normal rates. Yet comparing the card's prices with those listed on page 10 of the magazine as being the present subscription rates in Europe, it seems that the Italians who take the Christmas offer will be paying 25 per cent more, not 25 per cent less, than the standard rate. Nobody is waving much as 25 per cent. For the Irish, for example, the saving would be only a tenth of that.

The explanation, an abashed Time spokesman admitted yesterday, is that page 10 is all wrong. "The reprinting dates from last February and all the subscription rates have increased since then. It got into the magazine by mistake."

Flat spin?

Aspiring letter-day Irving Berlin who may have been hoping to win a trip to the North Pole are unlikely to realize their hopes.

Owing to "unforeseen circumstances" the Edwin M. Knowles China Company of New West Virginia, has cancelled its Christmas song writing contest. The competition was related to the promotion of their Christmas plate, called "Wrapped up in Christmas".

The idea was that song writers in North America and Britain should vie to fit memorable lyrics and a hummable tune to the concept and title of the plate. Unfortunately, the prize was to include not only the polar expedition but also a professional recording by "a top name group". There the contest came unstuck, for the company found that there might be "illimitable time delays" in the production of any professional record.

Bradford Exchange, which acts as agents for Knowles in Britain, says that no English songwriters had time to put pen to paper before the contest was scrapped. In America, however, there is now a surfeit of songs called "Wrapped up in Christmas" looking for someone to sing them.

If you were to walk along the beach at Nefyn, Gwynedd, North Wales you might notice a little boat lying there broken in two as if recently smashed on rocks. It is called the Maggie.

Ross Davies

Poor third quarter at Tricentrol

By Drew Johnston

Tricentrol, the oil exploration and production company, disappointed the market yesterday with lower third quarter and nine month net income figures.

For the nine months to September 30, net income went down from £11.8m to £10.9m, as third-quarter income fell from £4.5m to £3.5m. A steep supplementary petroleum duty tax charge of £1.65m was partly responsible for the drop.

In the market, the quarter's figures resulted in a 4p drop to 264p. But with increasing production from Thistle there were expectations that the year-end results could be favourably influenced by a substantial last quarter improvement. One view was that net profits for the year could go as high as £15.5m.

Tricentrol has a 10 per cent stake in the North Sea Thistle field, which represents 2.86m barrels for the nine months. But a drop in total oil production from Thistle in the latest quarter is apparently the result of a 25 day lay-off while a platform was undergoing maintenance to bring it into line with Department of Energy requirements. In the most recent period production has come close to the predicted peak figure of 135,000 barrels a day.

At the international level, the dip in oil prices during the summer would have further affected the overall picture but for the concurrent fall in sterling against the dollar. This effectively countered the price drop.

In Canada, oil production was down, averaging 1,740 barrels a day against the 1980 average of 1,820. Gas sales also fell because of an unusually warm winter which caused reduced demand, the company says.

In the United States, oil production was up substantially, from an average of 170 barrels a day to 335. This was the result of successful exploratory drilling programme in the company's southern division. An exploration office also opened in Denver, Colorado, which will be responsible for exploration in the Rocky Mountain states.

Further exploration work, so far without actual production, was carried out in the South

China Sea, Australia and New Zealand.



Mr James Longcroft, chairman of Tricentrol.

Feedex cuts half year dividend after fall

By Margaret Pagano

Intense competition in the animal feed market and poor demand for agricultural equipment led to a fall in pretax profits at Feedex Agricultural Industries. The Hull-based concern, one of the few independent agricultural groups in the country, saw its profits decline from £264,000 to £231,000 in the six months to June. But this did reflect an upturn in trade over the second-half of 1980, when profits fell to £85,000. Nevertheless, shareholders are getting a lower dividend at 0.7p gross against 0.9p last time.

Despite the stiff price war in the animal feed market, the group managed to maintain volumes but lower margins were only offset by cost-cutting on overheads and improved efficiency. Profits were down only 5 per cent from 1980, a result which, Mr J. Williams, chairman, considers is excellent in the circumstances.

But Feedex's engineering division is still the worst hit and returned only a small profit. Rowlands Engineers made useful profits but this is not expected to be repeated in the second half. John H. Taylor, which makes livestock equipment, lost heavily last year and will again make a loss in the full year. However, the group has invested in development work and silage equipment imports.

In the livestock division Feedex pig margins were eroded in the first quarter but trading has since improved.

Mr Williams says that Four-F International has been successful in exporting the group's products, returning a £16,000 profit—half of which goes to shareholders.

At the trading level, profits were £379,000 against £459,000 but they were helped by a reduction in interest charges from £195,000 to £156,000. Sales were only slightly up at £15.12m against £14.9m.

W A Tyack slump

In the 12 months to July 31, the W. A. Tyack engineering group crashed from a pretax profit of £270,000 to a pretax loss of £250,000. Turnover was reduced from £5.96m to £4.53m. The total dividend, gross, is being cut from 2.54p to 0.57p a share.

Stock markets

Boost from Sainsbury

Equities were looking a little tired yesterday after their heavy gains of the last two days and most were forced to close below their best.

Nevertheless, dealers were quick to emphasize that the market remains firm and eagerly awaiting the outcome of first-time dealing on Friday in Cable & Wireless. Estimates of the premium continue to grow and currently stand at 34p over the offer price of 16p. But this could extend to nearer 50p once the stage retreat and the institutions enter to pick up available stock.

Shares of URM Group rose 3p to 54p yesterday despite the half-time loss of £831,000 revealed last week. Dealers now reckon that a stake is being built up prior to a bid, with the broker reported to be a buyer of 500,000 shares earlier in the week.

Turnover yesterday was described as thin. The FT Index after being 0.5 up at 10 am and extending its lead to 4.2 at mid-day, closed 2.3 up at 494.5. Sentiment was given an early boost by the half-year profits from J. Sainsbury, up 20p at 490p, after 500p, revealed a 38 per cent increase—some £4m above most estimates. British Home Stores, which runs five Savecentres in partnership with Sainsbury, also jumped 10p to 129p, after 131p, amid speculation that the two groups may be contemplating a merger.

A lack of further bullish news from the United States markets provided a lift with a period of consolidation and soon one or two profit takers were on the scene. Prices in lags fell by around 1p in thin trade with similar losses re-

corded in shorts.

However, jobbers were keeping an open mind about the possibility of a new rap tomorrow bearing in mind the market's recent strength.

P & O DfD was the focal point after hours as the share price leapt 23p to 130p amid reports that a Far Eastern consortium had been active in the market at 110p a share prior to making a full bid. In the meantime, ICI dipped 2p to 278p. Glaxo 2p to 430p, and Bewater 2p to 201p while Lucas Industries lost 7p to 182p as profit takers pulled out in the wake of the B.L. settlement.

In the meantime, Hawker Siddeley rose 6p to 318p, Blue Circle 4p to 458p, and Unilever 3p to 615p.

Shares of ACC were unchanged at 61p with Mr Robert Holmes a Court apparently successful in his quest for an extra 10m shares, taking his stake to 51 per cent of the non-voters.

Shares of Berec hardened 2p to 133p in the hope that Hanson Trust, 7p off at 279p, may come back with a higher offer. Thomas Tilling, which has already received the blessing of the Berec board, closed 2p up at 137p.

Trident TV raced ahead 6p to 553p after details of its £17m acquisition of the Playboy casinos. This in turn focused attention on several other leisure shares, with Pleasureama up 5p at 253p and Saga Holidays 12p better at 410p.

In builders Higgs & Hill rose 11p to 122p, on speculative attention with Davies & Newmad rallying 20p to 80p after recently announcing trading losses.

Better than expected trading news helped Usher Walker 3p to 65p, Feedex 3p to 37p,

Manganese Bronze 1p to 24p and North British Properties 5p to 155p. But disappointing news left Sheffield Brick 1p off at 42p while Fidelity Radio held steady at 43p in spite of continued losses.

Tuesday's dawn raid on RHM Group, 1p lower at 70p, put the food sector in a new light. British Sugar, which made the raid, slipped 3p to 311p while S & W Berisford, with a 40 per cent stake in the latter, rose 2p to 111p. Hillards was a firm market, 6p dearer at 138p, along with Kwik Save, 6p up at 22p.

After two consecutive days of sharp upward movements, a few lines of stock came on offer yesterday: 400,000 Reed International were quickly snapped up at 238p, 3p below the market price, while 100,000 Cape Industries were picked up at 147p.

The better than expected figures from Sainsbury also excited the rest of the food sector. GUS 'A' rose 13p to 426p, Boots 5p to 204p and Marks & Spencer 2p to 118p. House of Fraser hardened 3p to 162p awaiting the outcome of the Monopolies reference due later this month on the Lorrho bid.

Equity turnover on November 3 was £143,053m (13,001 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were British Home Stores, P & O, Tricentrol, Trident TV, British Arrow, Hanson Trust, GEC and Higgs & Hill. Traded options: Contracts amounted to 1,416 with P & O DfD a firm favourite on 299.

Traditional options saw calls in Tozer Kemsley on 61p, British Home Stores on 150p, Royal Bank of Scotland on 16p, P & O DfD on 5p and Courtaulds on 51p.

NB Properties raises payout

While pretax profits of North British Properties of £15.1m for the year to July 31, are little changed from the previous year's £15.5m, post-tax earnings have risen from £663,000 to £789,000.

This has enabled the board to increase the final dividend from 2.57p to 2.85p gross a share, lifting the total payment from 4p to 4.42p. Earnings per share improved slightly, from 5.12p to 6.09p. Rental income expanded from £1.61m to £1.95m at a time when only one significant rent review came through.

Mr Elliott Ward, the managing director, reports that overall the results are satisfactory.

Grange Trust

Following discussions between Courtaulds Pensions Fund and directors of Grange Trust, terms have been agreed for CPF to make an offer on an improved basis for the ordinary stock units of Grange. The directors of Grange and their advisers now consider that the terms of both the ordinary offer and the preference offer are reasonable for acceptance.

The offer will be based on the formula net asset value subject to a possible maximum of 160p and a minimum of 146p per unit, together with a guaranteed loan note alternative.

Securicor to sell CB

Securicor, Britain's largest industrial security company, is to market its own range of citizens' band radio equipment. The new units will be manufactured by Uniden, a United States market leader with its Presidentland Cobra brands.

Prices for the new sets, including the installation where required, will be announced this month.

Securicor owns the United Kingdom's largest private radio-telephone organization with 5,000 subscribers and forecasts sales of radio-telephone equipment next year of more than £750,000.

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FJC Lilley purchase

F. J. C. Lilley's subsidiary Henry Jones and Son (Portsmouth) has acquired J. J. Gaffney (Contractors) for £100,000, subject to an adjustment based on future trading results.

Mr J. J. Gaffney is to continue as managing director and Mr A. F. Jones becomes chairman.

Lovat Enterprise Fund

The Lovat Enterprise Fund, formed in mid-1980 by M. J. H. Nighingale & Co and five leading financial institutions, has completed a further investment. The participants have acquired a substantial minority interest in the ordinary shares of Geo. Bray & Co (Holdings) for about £630,000.

Bray, which is based in Leeds, is engaged in two main activities. The gas heating division is the leading United Kingdom independent manufacturer of burners for domestic gas appliances and the electric heating division manufactures a broad range of electric heating ele-

ments and appliances for industrial applications.

Usher-Walker

Because of pressure on margins, Usher-Walker's pretax profits fell from £173,000 to £145,000 in the first half of 1981. Turnover rose from £3.79m to £4m. Earnings per share are more than halved to 3.35p, against 7.39p, but the interim payment is being held at 1.84p gross.

Conditions continue to be depressed and steps have been taken to rationalize some operations.

Manganese Bronze

Although Manganese Bronze Holdings made a pretax loss of £639,000 in the year to July 31 compared with a pretax profit of £540,000 for 1979-80—this is little more than the first-half's pretax loss of £637,000.

Turnover fell from £39.67m to £32.47m. The payment to ordinary shareholders is unchanged at 3.1p gross. There is a transfer from reserves this time of £3.6m, compared with a transfer to reserves of £394,000 last year.

Braham Miller

Fieldwood, has made an increased and final cash offer of 30p for the whole of the issued share capital of Braham Miller not already owned by it.

Acceptances of the offer have been received in respect of 311,874 ordinary shares (2.48 per cent).

Rank sells two hotels to HK

By Our Financial Staff

Rank Organisation is selling its Jossington hotels in Paris and Brussels, the Hotel Westminster and the Royal Windsor Hotel, both in prime sites, to Far East Hotels and Entertainment, a Hongkong group.

Rank said last night that the price remains confidential for the time being but precise terms of the deal are due later this week. Far East Hotels and Entertainment is acquiring the hotels' holding company. Rank's share price added 1p to 139p on the news.

City analysts estimate the deal will release only about £3.5m to £4m for Rank because of the small number of rooms at each hotel. The Paris hotel has 102 bedrooms and that in Brussels 267. At present London prices this would yield some £7.4m on the basis of £20,000 replacement costs per room.

Both hotels, which have been on the market for some time, are believed to be losing money, mainly as a result of their uncompetitive sizes and relatively large overheads.

Rank is left overseas with two Italian hotels, one in the Canaries, and a management contract in Detroit. Their future is also being closely examined.

Profits from Rank's hotel concerns fell sharply last year but its five London hotels—the White House, Athenaeum, Royal Garden, Royal Lancaster and Royal Gloucester—are all trading profitably.

*2 1/2 hours to London on electric inter-city.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Press advertisement Financial Times 13/5/81)

Peterborough is 50 minutes from King's Cross by train.

PETERBOROUGH DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

(Press advertisement Financial Times Feb. 1981)

The capital is only an hour away by high speed train.

SWINDON

(Press advertisement Financial Times 1/5/81)

(and London is only 1 1/2 hours away).

SCUNTHORPE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

(Leaflet on Communications)

Total travel time to London has been reduced to around two hours.

FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

(Brochure)

Strategically located just 80 miles north of London.

CORBY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

(Press advertisement Financial Times May '81)

A stretch of the M1 motorway forms part of the city's eastern boundary with access from junction 14, 50 miles (80 kilometres) from London.

MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Brochure on Industrial Development)

Just 1 hour from London.

CITY OF SWANSEA

(Press advertisement Banker's Magazine Jan '81)

Follow their advice, come to London.

THE CITY FULL OF ENTERPRISE

A world centre for business, finance, trade and also the seat of government, it offers you access to 7 million people, the buoyant South East region and all the prosperous European markets.

The London Docklands Development Corporation will shortly have its very own Enterprise Zone, 470 acres within two and a half miles of Tower Bridge.

In short, London offers benefits that are easily taken for granted while you've got them. And priceless when you haven't.

London Docklands

The development area with the London Bonus.

LONDON DOCKLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WEST INDIA HOUSE, MILLWALL DOCK, LONDON E14 4QU

هكذا من الأسهل

England's cricketers leave for their daunting four-month tour of India and Sri Lanka

Old guard fly out to new challenge

By Richard Streeton
England's cricketers, led by their new captain, Keith Fletcher, leave London today for a four-month tour of India and Sri Lanka which remained in doubt until five days ago. Relief that weeks of uncertainty have finally ended will bring the excitement common to all touring parties as the plane takes off.

Young sportsmen tend to be single-minded people and the first nets in the Bombay sunshine within the next 36 hours will help shed any lingering anxieties and concentrate the players' minds on the difficult cricket tasks ahead. The elders in the committee rooms, though, will remain aware how close a call world cricket has had. They will also know its problems have far from disappeared.

England face a daunting programme. Apart from the usual zonal games, they will be playing six Test matches and three one-day internationals. It will be the first time since 1967-68 that England have undertaken a modern-style itinerary in India. England then visit Sri Lanka, where they play the first official Test match since Sri Lanka became a full ICC member last summer.

An Indian tour remains a taxing experience physically for English cricketers, in view of the different conditions, lengthy journeys and great heat. Compensation comes, however, from the fanatical interest in the game throughout the country, the noisy enthusiasm of the vast crowds at the stadiums, and the marvellous panoramas which unfold as they criss-cross a country so completely different from home.

Fletcher's appointment, once Brearley was unavailable, was with unanimous approval and in this itself is a considerable tribute to him. Only England, among the cricketing nations, would turn the clock back five years when seeking a fresh captain, but English cricket has seen numerous examples of players being recalled successfully after their Test match careers had been thought to be behind them.

In the context of captaincy you have to go no further back than Illingworth's reign from 1969 to 1972. There are other similarities between the two men, for Fletcher has the same background, character and shrewdness to hold the respect of younger team colleagues.

As Essex captain in recent years Fletcher has shown some remarkable successes. As a batsman he belongs to the generation capable of building a long innings. He also has a proven record in Indian conditions, where persistently fast

bowling is not a relevant factor. England should not be short of runs on this tour, though seven batsmen and Botham are the all-rounders are quite a handful to keep in match practice in view of the restricted chances available outside the representative fixtures.

Boycott, who has never made a full tour to India, will thrive on the challenge. He will receive the prospect of Boycott's last tour, which was a tour of India, to mark the Indian board's jubilee, the pitch was as grassy as anyone had ever seen in India. Botham almost single-handedly routed India with a century and 13 wickets.

Yet on the same ground earlier that season, India had beaten both Australia and Pakistan in four days within six weeks of each other. In those games not a blade of grass was to be seen on the pitch. It epitomized the decisive role that the groundsmen have in cricket.

The Indian selectors no longer have their famous spin quartet to shuffle. Chandrasekhar, Bedi and others have left the Test scene and pace and swing of Kapil Dev and the left-arm bowler, Gavaskar, represent India's prime wicket-taking threat.

It could be that India's best chance of success could be to revert to the pitches of bygone years, when they were built to last and became slower and slower as matches progressed.

Generally, though, since the heavy days around 1971, when India under Wadkar won rubbers against West Indies in the Caribbean and against England at home and away, some of the inconsistencies of earlier times have returned to Indian cricket.

Gavaskar, Viswanath and Venkataratnam, the leading Indian batsmen, all failed to make runs regularly in Australia last winter, though it could be a different story this time on their own wickets.

Willis, Lever and Underwood shared 75 of the 95 wickets taken by England's bowlers in 1976-77, when Greg's team became the first post-war English side in five attempts to win a series on the sub-continent.

Five years on England are again looking to the same three bowlers to impose dominance and Willis, in particular, will have to be nursed carefully.

It is important, therefore, that the calculated gamble being taken with Dilley's form pays off. It is also to be hoped that Allott maintains his rapid advance and can fulfil his intended stock role in the pace attack.

It is also crucial for the new batsmen—Tavare, Cook, and, in this sense, Goring, too

concern for all those connected with the game. Until there is the chance to gauge the wickets prepared at the different Test grounds, it is difficult to be precise about the pattern that the series could take. When England, on their way back from Australia, played a century Test in Bombay in February last year, to mark the Indian board's jubilee, the pitch was as grassy as anyone had ever seen in India. Botham almost single-handedly routed India with a century and 13 wickets.

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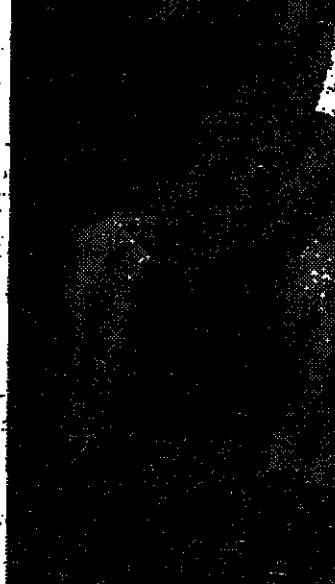
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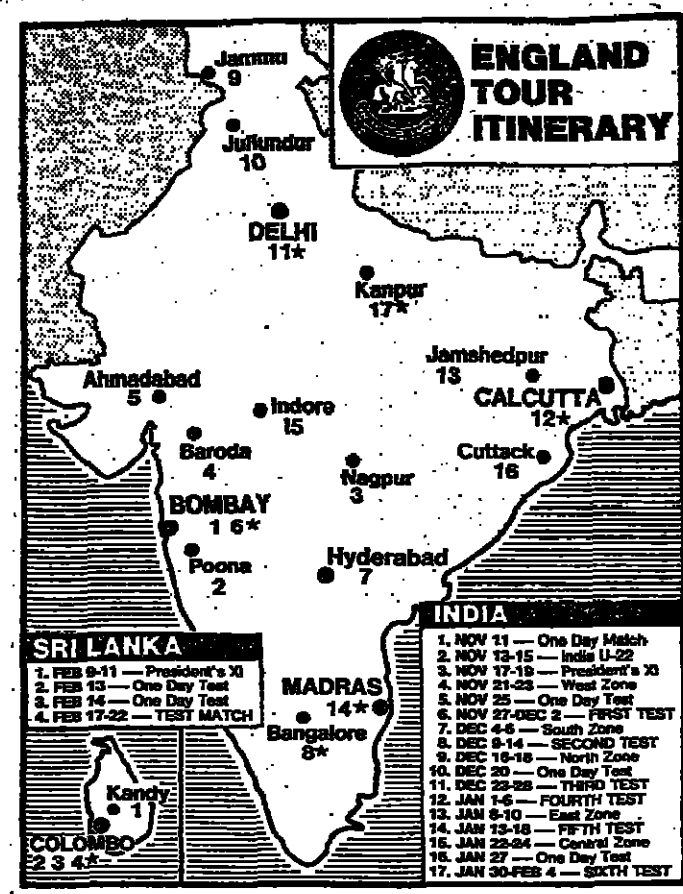
—to establish themselves firmly as Test players. English cricket has had too many disappointments with newcomers on recent tours, and the seasoned look about the present party (average age 30) reflects the problem.

Several members of Fletcher's team will probably have no part to play in the sterner battles that lie ahead in Australia in 1982-83. However, strong England prove to be in terms of match results over the next four months, this particular tour will not be considered a success unless the newer faces in this side make a significant contribution.

PARTY: K W R Fletcher (Essex, 52 Tests), R G D Willis (Warwickshire, 65), F J W Allott (Lancashire, 1), J Botham (Somerset, 41), G Boycott (Yorkshire, 104), G Cook (Northamptonshire, 2), G R Dilley (Kent, 12), J E Embury (Middlesex, 18), M W Gatting (Middlesex, 14), G A Gough (Essex, 35), D J Gower (Leicestershire, 30), J Lever, Essex, 8, C J Richards (Surrey, 0), C J Tavaré (Kent, 4), S W Taylor (Derbyshire, 2), D L Underwood (Kent, 78). Manager: R Subba Row. Physiotherapist: B W Thomas.



All packed and happy to have somewhere to go: Fletcher (left) and Cook.



Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV/LONDON	Radio 4	Radio 3	Radio 2
<p>9.05 For Schools: "Colours" Europe from the Air 9.27 Japan: The Crowded Island 9.48 Arrival at Upkirk 10.10 Fabrics 10.32 The Police 11.05 Maths 11.30 Welsh strains 11.59 The Velour of England 12.20 Interval 12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Whinor and Moira Stuart 12.40 Poshie Mill at One. Appearing are Jenny Agutter talking about her new film, Eric Idle with his new play, and Irish singer Dana 1.45 Pigeon Street. A See Saw programme for the very young entitled A Cold Day (2) 2.00 You and Me. At the Airport (1) 2.15 For Schools: Collages: Music Time 2.40 British Social History 3.00 Cossdown 3.53 Regional news</p> <p>3.55 Play School. For the under-fives (shown earlier on BBC2)</p> <p>4.20 Cartoons: Animated Laurel and Hardy in Shiver Me Timbers (1) 4.25 Jackson. Part five of The Miller's Boy read by Christopher Guard</p> <p>4.40 Carbons: Scooby and Screepy Doo in Lock the Door; it's a Minotaur</p> <p>5.00 John Craven's Newspaper. The latest world news for young people</p> <p>5.05 Blue Peter. Peter Duffean spends a day with the Royal Marines on their endurance course and a 15-year-old Debbie Francis tells her disfiguring wedding dress made from plastic bags</p> <p>5.35 Wilko the Wisp. The voices of Kenneth Williams in The Beauty Contest</p> <p>5.40 News read by Richard Baker 6.00 Regional news magazines 6.25 Nationwide</p> <p>6.55 Tomorrow's World. Among the Britain tonight is Gly Fawkes's contribution to daffodil inflicting</p> <p>7.20 Top of the Pops. The latest best selling records introduced by Peter Powell</p> <p>7.35 Bankers' Blues: Harlequin quiz game organized by Terry Wogan</p> <p>8.30 Stalk of Sticks. Comedy series about two brothers and a girl. Tonight Brian is persuaded to appear at the local folk club</p>	<p>11.00 Play School. For the under-fives (shown earlier on BBC2)</p> <p>11.05 The Cavers and the Song. Jeremy Taylor sings about Blackpool out of season and the town itself is captured on film by Ken MacMillan</p> <p>5.10 Cartoon Two. Do I Detect a Change in Your Attitude?</p> <p>5.15 Personal Pleasures with Sir Hugh Casson. He visits the Russell-Cotes Museum, (1)</p> <p>5.40 The Five Faces of Dr. Who. The final episode of The Firemaker (1)</p> <p>6.50 Film: A High Wind in Jamaica (1959) starring Anthony Quinn and Julie Culbert. A hurricane destroys the home of the Thornton family in Jamaica during 1870. They decide to sail to England but their ship is seized by pirates</p> <p>7.45 News with sub-titles</p> <p>7.50 Living on the Land. The story of Rosemary Watson, cattle dealer</p> <p>8.30 Russell Harty. His guests include Sir Bernard Lovell and Mr. Horton-Farley, a descendant of the famous Guy</p>	<p>9.30 For Schools: Behind the scenes at ITN the day John Lennon died; 9.52 Dad looks after us; 10.08 Tricks and conjuring; 10.26 The Peak District and Sheffield; 10.48 Bomb Calamity; 11.05 Basic Maths; 11.22 Telling the Tale; 11.30 The Basic comic; 12.00 Gammon and Spinach; 12.10 Get up and Go! 12.30 The Softies; 1.00 News; 1.20 Thames News; 1.30 Taff Area; 2.00 After Noon Plus looks at the subject of contraception; 2.45 Hazell. The downbeat detective discovers that what is served at the local Indian restaurant is not just curry; 3.45 Three Little Words. Telepathic test between married couples</p> <p>4.15 Cartoons: Walt Disney's The Ugly Duckling; 4.20 Palmerston. A drama set in the American Deep South during the Thirties concerning the friendship between two boys</p> <p>5.15 Espionage Drama. Dolly receives a shock when she goes to visit her aunt in Darlington</p> <p>5.45 News</p> <p>6.00 Thames News with Andrew Gardner and Rita Carter</p> <p>6.25 Sounds Like London. Musical quiz about London hosted by Benny Green</p> <p>6.55 The Streets of San Francisco. Two detectives investigate the murder of two girls found dead in their apartment (1)</p> <p>7.50 Film: The Swiss Conspiracy (1975) starring David Janssen, Santa Bergr and John Ireland. A Department of Justice investigator tries to find out who is blackmailing people with secret bank accounts in Geneva</p> <p>8.30 Nicholas Ball as Hazell (ITV 2.45 pm)</p>	<p>6.00 News Briefing; 6.10 Farming Today; 6.30 Today; 6.45 News in Parliament; 9.00 News; 9.05 Checkpoint; 9.10 The Living World; 9.30 News; 9.35 Entertainers; 9.40 The Birmingham Enterprise Workshop; 10.30 Daily Story; 10.40 Monday's Diary; 10.45 A Moorland Winter by Pam Macfarlane (4); 11.00 News; 11.05 Shopping Basket; 11.50 Express With; 12.00 News; 12.05 You and Yours; 12.27 Top of the Form; 12.30 Weather; 1.00 The World at One; 1.40 The Archers; 2.00 News; 2.02 Woman's Hour; 2.30 News; 2.32 Afternoon Theatre: Roaring Boys by Peter Hutchings; 3.00 News; 3.05 Young Man in the English Midlands. He has been successful and now he is back in the Midlands. He has an English wife who has never been to Ireland and a son. Then one day his mother, who still lives in Belfast is bombed out of her home and comes to stay with him. The passion and the violence are intense with her. The family in a situation where they have been trying to avoid each other for years</p> <p>4.00 News; 4.05 News from around the UK which didn't quite make the national headlines</p> <p>4.15 Bookclub: A weekly look at the world of books</p> <p>4.45 Story Time: The Moonshiners by Mary Stewart (1); 5.00 PM; 5.05 News; 5.10 Any Answers? 5.15 A Bargain; 5.20 News; 5.25 The Archers; 5.30 News; 5.35 News from 4, Celebrate Guy Fawkes at Sturton Castle; 6.00 City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; 6.05 Concert: Tchaikovsky, Schumann; 6.50 I Know It's Here Somewhere. A radio drama about a woman's search for her missing husband; 7.00 News</p>	<p>6.10 Concert (Part 2: Beethoven: Tommasini, Dvorak, Franck); 6.20 News; 6.30 Bristol Lunchtime Concert: direct from St. George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Guitar recital: Sir. Villalobos; Castaneda-Tedesco; Granados, Rodrigo, Mallos; 6.40 The Demon. Fantastic opera in three acts by Anton Rubinstein (sung in Russian; records); 6.55 News; 7.00 Mainly for Pleasure. Composers and performers with physical disabilities have made notable contributions to the art of music. Natalie Brown introduces a programme of some of the most outstanding, ending with Ravel's Concerto for piano (left hand) and orchestra at about 6.35; 7.00 Gerhard Oppitz Piano recital; 7.30 The Mighty Renshaw by Peter Thomson. Play, with Nigel Stock, Gordon Lee; 8.00 Music for the Royal Fireworks by Handel; record; 9.45 Words (series). Talk by John Wain (1); 10.00 News; 10.05 Music in our Time Luciano Berio; record; 11.00 News; 11.05 Wagner on record</p>	<p>5.00 Ray Moore; 5.30 Terry Wogan; 10.00 Susanah Simons; 12.00 John Dunn; 2.00 Ed Stewart; 4.00 David Hamilton; 5.45 News; 6.00 David Symonds; 8.00 Country Club; 9.00 Alan Dale; 10.00 The News; 10.30 Star Sound Extra; 1.00 Brian Matthews; 1.30 from midnight; 1.00 Together's Hour; 2.00 You and the Night and the Music</p> <p>5.00 As Radio 2, 7.00 Mike Read; 8.00 Simon Bates; 11.30 Dave Lee Travis; 2.00 Paul Barnett; 3.30 Steve Wright; 5.00 Peter Powell; 7.00 Paul Gommersall; 8.00 David Jensen; 10.00 John Peel; 12.00 John Peel</p> <p>VHF Radios 1 and 2.50 With Radio 2, 10.00 With Radio 1, 12.00-5.00 With Radio 2</p>

8.00 News with John Humphrys

9.25 Tokyo. Part three of the drama series about the war in Japan, captured by the Japanese during World War Two, cope with the situation. This evening they are marched to a concentration camp and discover conditions there are appalling

10.20 Behind the Scenes with John Gledhill. Number eight in the 10-part series deals with a man who has been in television for 30 years, the last 10 as a drama director, in the programme we see him at work with Paul Daneman, Anna Milburn and Jill Balcan on an extract from the novel The Sea Change

10.50 Question Time with Robin Day. Among the taking part are Roy Hattersley and Nigel Lawson

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Extract from the Hovet 11.15 News Change		10.50 Question Time with Robin Day: Among those taking part are Roy Hattersley and Nigel Lawson	
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Russians increase pressure to free submarine

From David Brown, Stockholm, Nov 4

The Soviet Union temporarily reinforced its fleet outside Sweden's southern territorial waters today after telling the Swedish Government that its patience is running low over its submarine grounded near a Swedish naval base a week ago.

The Prime Minister's office said in a statement tonight that the Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces had submitted a report today, which would be discussed at a government meeting tomorrow.

A theory emerged tonight that the submarine was monitoring secret tests on a new anti-submarine torpedo. A defence staff spokesman confirmed the Navy was testing the torpedo on the day the submarine went aground only six miles away.

Mr Carl de Geer, the Swedish Ambassador in Moscow, has twice been called to the Soviet Foreign Ministry in the last few days to be informed of Russian impatience. The Soviet Ambassador in Stockholm has also visited Mr Ola Ullsten, the Foreign Minister, to complain over the delay in releasing the submarine, which ran aground at Karlskrona with a crew of 56.

The Swedish investigation into what the submarine was doing in a militarily sensitive area has been hampered by the captain's renewed refusal to leave his vessel for questioning. Investigators were today aboard the 1,000-ton submarine examining charts and navigation equipment. The captain claimed his gyro compass went wrong.

This morning another three Soviet naval ships joined the other Soviet vessels in the area just outside the 12 nautical mile

territorial limit. Then they departed.

Mr Thorbjörn Fälldin, the Prime Minister, was displeased over remarks by Mr Torsten Gustafsson, the Defence Minister, that force would not be considered. This assurance may explain the hardening of Soviet attitudes.

Swedish boycott: The Swedish Government has instructed its ambassadors worldwide not to attend any of the forthcoming celebrations of the Soviet National Day (AP report). The move is an expression of Swedish disapproval, a spokesman said.

Moscow: The Russians today broke more than a week's silence by saying the submarine had stayed off course because its navigation instruments had broken (Michael Binyon writes).

A brief Tass announcement said that on the night of October 27 to 28 "a Soviet diesel submarine No 137 which was on an ordinary training cruise in the Baltic Sea, in poor visibility, strayed off course owing to the malfunctioning of navigation instruments and because of errors which occurred in determining the location".

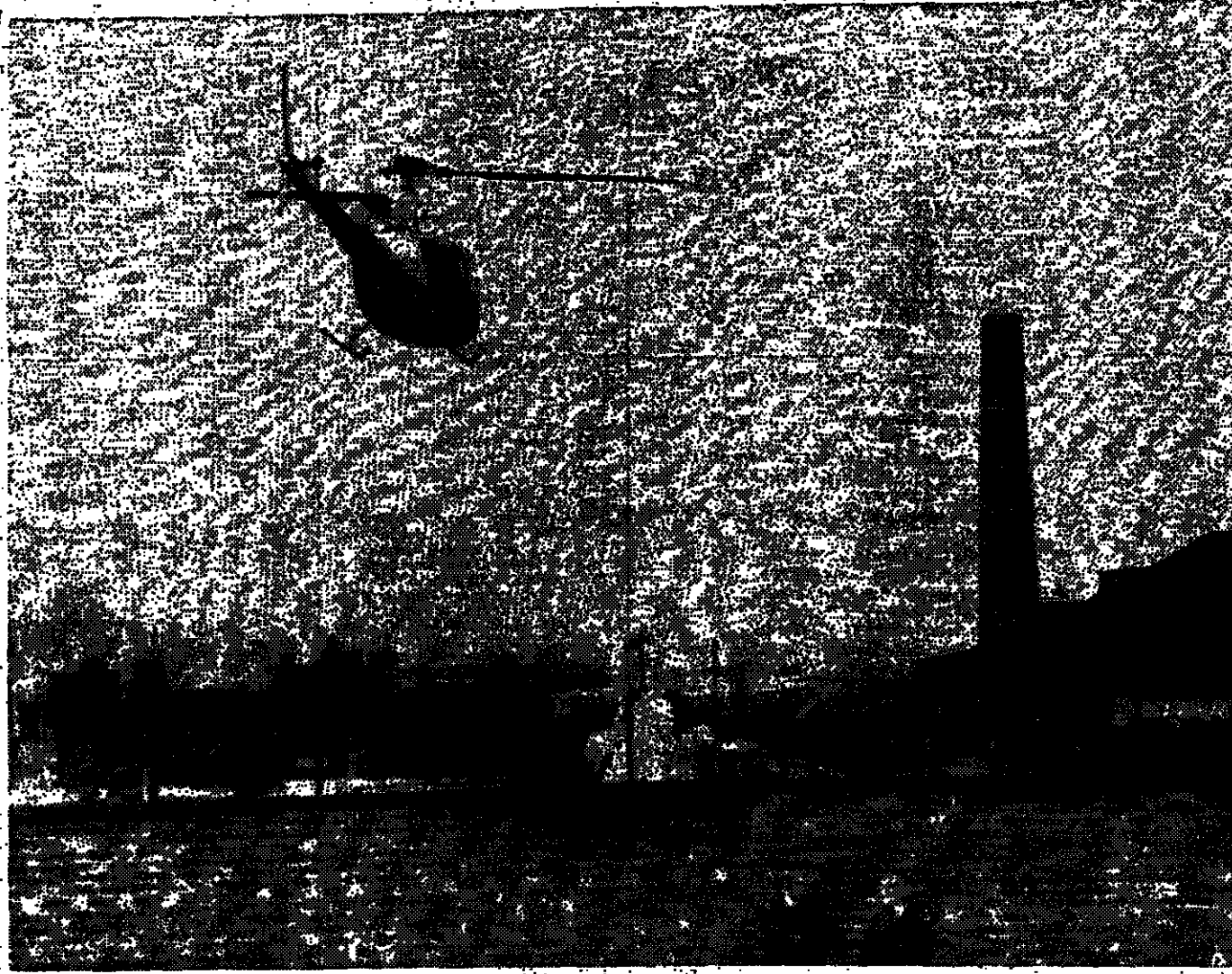
The announcement did not say where the submarine ran aground, and made no mention of the diplomatic tangle. It said the submarine had been refloated by Swedish rescue ships and was at anchor in a safe place.

The announcement is a clear Soviet attempt to back up Captain Pyotr Gudim's original statement to his interrogators and save diplomatic face. The incident has inflicted considerable damage on attempts to present the Soviet Union as a peaceful neighbour of the Scandinavian bloc.

Legal position: The Swedish Government was entitled to hold the submarine until it was satisfied with the captain's explanation, according to British legal experts (David Cross writes).

However, the Swedes were not allowed to venture on board without permission from the Soviet authorities because military vessels remain under the sovereignty of the nation whose flag they fly irrespective of where they are.

The experts said there seemed little point in the Swedish authorities seeking legal redress because the Soviet Union would never agree to appear before an international court. The most likely outcome would be release of the submarine.



One of the two helicopters flying into the factory at Openshaw above the heads of police.

Police guard factory during raid

Continued from page 1

Purness where nuclear submarines are built. Laurence Scott has been making the engines as a sub-contractor for Vickers.

The dispute and occupation at the factory came after an announcement that the plant would close with the loss of 650 jobs. The six-in was broken in August and last month the management said it intended to reopen the Manchester plant

with only 150 workers. The unions wanted 90 more people to be taken on.

After a board meeting last week the management said it had reversed its decision to reopen and claimed that £500,000-worth of damage had been done during the occupation.

The shop stewards said they were contacting engineering, dock and mining unions officials as well as local MPs for support

in their blocking campaign. Vickers said last night that the engines had not been taken to Barrow and denied they had been involved in "this James Bond escapade".

"We know nothing about it", a spokesman said.

One of the White Bell Jet Ranger helicopters which made yesterday's landing was owned by Cobair of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, the company refused to discuss its role

in the incident, but said that inquiries had been pouring into the ministry all day (Henry Stanhope writes).

The company did not deal directly with the ministry because it was a sub-contractor of Vickers.

He said the Royal Navy was not in desperate need of the engines at present and had not put pressure on Vickers or anyone else for delivery.

Joseph's axe will fall on student grants

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

is also subject to ratification by the Cabinet.

Ministers have ruled out the possibility of other money-saving measures that have been mooted, such as limiting the duration of the student grant to two years. They have also rejected any question of introducing charges for university, primary or secondary schooling.

However, there is still a possibility that the universities will suffer a further reduction in their income next year because of the effect of

inflation this year, which has been 2.3 per cent above what the Government has allowed in its cash-limited grant to the universities.

Education ministers have been arguing strenuously that it would be counter-productive to cut the universities' grant any more in real terms, which would be the effect if no account was taken of higher inflation. They have largely won that battle with the Treasury.

It has been agreed that there should be a large element of validation, which is the new jargon for allowing for inflation that is higher than expected, in assessing next year's university grant, though it has not yet been decided whether it should cover the whole of the inflationary element.

The Association of University Teachers is expecting 10,000 of its members, representing a third of all academic staff in British universities, to turn up for its mass lobby of Parliament on November 18

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The Queen and other members of the Royal Family entered the House of Lords followed by some young men in breeches and a throng made up of people whom Mr



Captain Gudim: Refuses to leave submarine.

Today's events

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the National Playing Fields Association, presents President's certificates, Buckingham Palace, 10.30; as senior fellow, Council of Engineering Unions, presents MacRobert award, Buckingham Palace, 10.30; presents gold badge awards on behalf of Recreation Managers' Association of Great Britain, Buckingham Palace, 11; as chairman of Tiger Club Down to Dusk competition, chairs panel of judges, Buckingham Palace, 11.30; as patron, attends annual meeting of Mental

Health Foundation, Cafe Royal, 11.40.

Talks, lectures

Japan and the West (1) Whistler Play, Sarah O'Brien, 11.45; de Gaulle: an introductory lecture by Laurence Brabury, Tate Gallery, 6.30.

Sir William Stirling Maxwell, National Gallery, 7.30.

Margaret Somerville on Ancient Chinese bronzes, 11.30; Song and Yuan landscape painting, British Museum, 1.15.

London maps of the sixteenth and seventeenth century by Rosemary Weisner, Museum of London, 1.10.

Aerobics, Aubrey Tukey, Science Museum, 1.15.

The eruption of Mount St Helens, Geographical Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, 2.30.

Parasites, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, 2.30.

Ivor Richard, OC, member of the Commission of European Communities, on Some aspects of social legislation in the EEC, New Theatre, King's College, Strand, 6. Exhibitions

Splendours of the Gossage, Victoria and Albert Museum, 10.30-5.30.

Scottish Sculpture, 10.30-5.30. See "81" for art, craft, design and technology, the MacRobert Pavilion, Royal Highland Showground, Inverness, 10.30-5.30.

Watercolours of Antarctica by David Smith, Bankside Gallery, 48, Drimton Street, Bermondsey, 10.30-5.30.

European Photography 81 Exhibition, Lyttelton Circle, National Theatre, South Bank, 10 am to 11 pm.

Manuscript: An exhibition and sale of twelfth century architectural drawings, the Building Centre, 25 Store Street, 10 to 5.

Opening of first phase of Ancient Egypt gallery, City Museum, 10.30-5.30.

Open House, City Museum, 10.30-5.30.

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The Times list of best-selling books

Performing Arts

Violins Before Midnight, Ciba Jaines, Pion, £1.75

Guinness Book of British Hit Music, Ciba Jaines, Pion, £4.99

Concise Oxford Dictionary of Music, Oxford University Press, £4.50

Music of Dance, Margaret Forster, BBC, £1.75

Bar to Run: The Thrane, D. Marsh, Book Sales, £4.95

Transport

Highway Code, HMSO, 25p

Spotter's Guide to Cars, HMSO, 25p

Spotter's Guide to Motorways, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 21: Automobiles, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 22: Aircraft, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 23: Ships, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 24: Space, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 25: The World, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 26: The Future, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 27: The Past, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 28: The Present, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 29: The World, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 30: The Future, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 31: The Past, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 32: The Present, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 33: The World, HMSO, 25p

Observer Series 34: The Future, HMSO, 25p

Weather

General situation: Anticyclone will be slow moving over Britain.

Forecasts from 6 am to midnight

London, SE. Cloud 5. Drizzle: Variable cloud, some rain or drizzle in places at first, with patches clearing in evening; wind variable, light; sea temp 12C (54F).

East Angles, SE. Wind: Dry, fog patches slow to clear in places but sunny intervals; light to moderate; sea temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F); but cooler where fog lingers. First rain at 11.50.

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Frank Johnson views Parliament

Walking backwards with Dimbleby of State

One hurried to the House of Lords yesterday for the State Opening of Parliament, but swiftly retreated to watch it on television, for you can't beat the real thing.

Our great state occasions, popularly supposed to go back centuries, were in their present form invented in the early 1950s by the late Lord Dimbleby, an ancestor of the present holder of the office of Dimbleby of State.

Only the ancient craft of the television commentator can bring out one of the many strengths of the British Constitution: the fact that hardly anyone knows what is going on.

Down a long corridor, on the screen at one stage yesterday, walked Black Rod—

itself a name which begs many questions—preceded by a senior police officer, "Hats off Strangers", roared the policeman. "That is the shout of 'Hats off Strangers'", explained Mr Dimbleby. The crucial point here is that Mr Dimbleby offered no further explanation. That would have spoiled it.

Visitors to our shores sometimes assume that we understand our pageantry. We do. We vaguely know that Black Rod, though a man, wears black stockings and that he gets a door slammed in his face usually at the time of the year. There our knowledge ends. Furthermore, none of us really wants to know more.

What that policeman's cry directed at the strangers or whoever was supposed to whip off the hats of the strangers? What were perfect strangers doing in a place like this in the first place? If we all knew the answers it might cause us to doubt the utility of our institutions. As it is, we could all supply our own explanations yesterday as the ancient ceremony and the still more ancient ceremony moved on.

"There is the Lord Great Chamberlain with his white staff", told Mr Dimbleby, leaving viewers all over Britain to assume some disability and to murmur, one another, it's amazing how that Lord Great Chamberlain manages to get about.

"Baroness Young", Mr Dimbleby continued, "Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Viscountess, the Cap of Maintenance, Close-up of cap being held on stick. Marvellous! Incomprehensible!"

The Queen and other members of the Royal Family entered the House of Lords followed by some young men in breeches and a throng made up of people whom Mr

Dimbleby announced as being, variously, ladies of the bed-chamber and aides de camp, some of whom looked camp indeed if they were the same as the young men in breeches, as who would not in that gear?

Having battered down the door of the Commons, Black Rod led in the men—men among them a riot of monocle and dandruff. At this stage, Dr David Owen, the leader of the Social Democrats in the House, made a sudden move, already irritated at not being allowed to lay a wreath on the Cenotaph at the same time as the other party leaders, he barged in alongside Mrs Thatcher and Mr Foot.

When they all reached the Lords to hear the Queen's Speech, Dr Owen, conveyed by that Bango of State, appeared on the screen in a prominent position. Only the fact that the Duke of Edinburgh was in the first prevented him from occupying the throne next to Her Majesty.

The Queen read the Speech and gave it to a venerable man who wore a full-bottom wig and an eiderdown. The Lord Chancellor returns the Speech to his purse and walks back to his seat. Mr Dimbleby helpfully explained, "The Queen has just read the Speech, which was now in the hands of the man who was walking backwards on television. Mrs Thatcher made a speech defending it. This was the purely ceremonial part of the day's proceedings, and was unused to television."

Mr Foot incurred some adverse criticism last week for going in for detail in last week's censure debate instead of relying on his trusty broad brush. But yesterday he redempted the brush.

He talked of the need for reflection, but was happiest reminiscing about his visit to Moscow.

Mrs Thatcher's speech was slightly damped, she said. She spoke especially of government in industrial training. Mr Eric Heffer rose and, reasonably enough, said such a thing was merely a reversal of Labour policy. She did not deny it, but merely said the hoped Mr Heffer would therefore support it.

Mr David Steel, for the Liberals, said he was not in favour of General Refutation, though he did not say so. He was in favour of Major Refutation or Lance Corporal Refutation. The debate continues.

NOON TODAY

Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts are shown as solid lines. High and low pressure areas are shown as dashed lines.

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